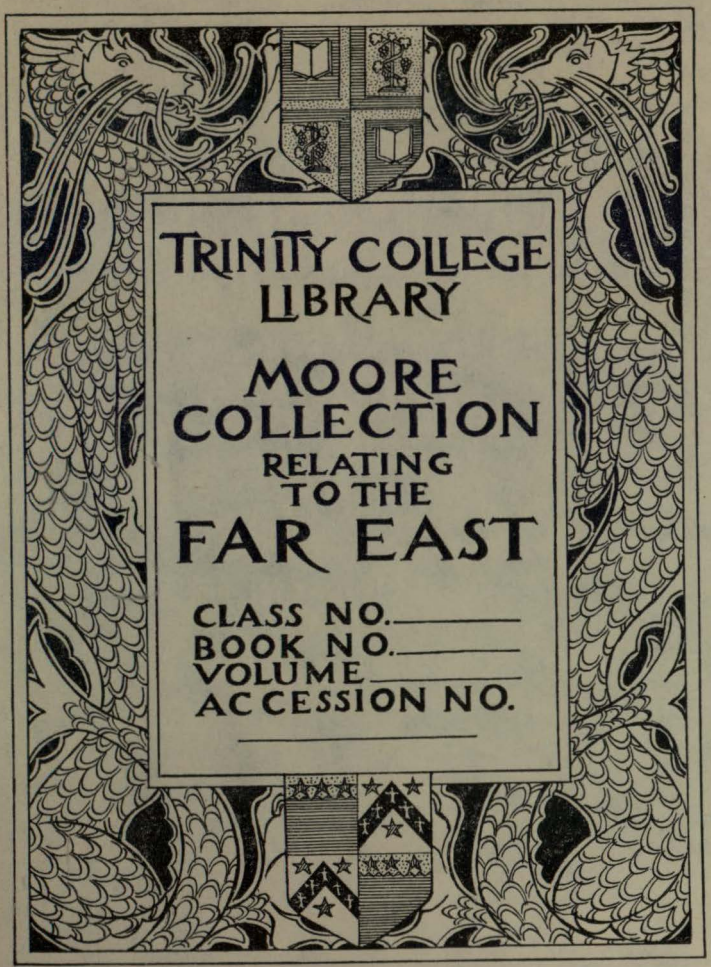

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GARDENING FOR HONGKONG

BY

W. J. TUTCHER, F.L.S.,

SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

BOTANICAL AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT, HONGKONG,

Formerly of the Royal Gardens, Kew.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE AND YOKOHAMA.

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[SECOND EDITION.]

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INTRODUCTION.

These notes are not intended to be exhaustive in any way, but only of sufficient value to give amateurs an elementary knowledge of gardening in the Colony. Some plants will thrive in one part of Hongkong better than in others. This is easily accounted for by the various aspects of different gardens, without taking into consideration many other things which affect the cultivation of plants. For instance, at Kowloon with a southerly aspect, there is much more sunshine than there is in Hongkong on the north side of the Peak. Many gardens are sheltered from the north winds, while others are not. The gardens at the Peak are often enveloped in fog which is very detrimental to the growth of winter and spring flowering annuals, as they love sunshine. From this it will be seen that it is impossible in a small work like this to deal with each case separately. In Kowloon where the soil is generally lighter than it is in Hongkong, many things can be grown all the year round, or for longer periods than similar plants can be grown in Hongkong. The number of temperate and tropical plants which can be grown in the Colony is remarkable. *Verbena venosa* a plant which will stand the frost and snow in England grows and flowers freely side by side with *Allamanda Schottii*, a native of Brazil. Watercress found on the banks of streams in England and Scotland, survives our tropical summer. Even heather will grow in Hongkong, although I have never seen it produce flowers. On the other hand, many plants which one would think ought to grow here, refuse to do so. It can only be ascertained by actual experiment what plants are suitable for the climate, and in this direction there is still a large field open.

First published in 1906 these notes have been altered and added to, but still they are only notes.

Hongkong, September, 1913.

THE POTTING OF PLANTS

In growing plants in pots it is first necessary that the pots should be prepared in a proper way to ensure success. To begin with, clean pots should always be used—clean inside and out. The reasons for this may be briefly stated. If the pots are dirty on the insde when fresh soil is put in, it sticks to the soil on theipots, so that when plants have to be transplanted into larger pots, instead of the soil coming out in a ball, as it should do, it crumbles and damages the young roots of the plants. Pots should be kept clean on the outside because dirt and plant growths minimise the amount of air which can pass through the sides of the pots. Air at the roots is necessary to plants so that they may be able to obtain their food in the best way. If air cannot permeate the soil, certain acids are formed which are detrimental to the roots of plants. Drainage is another important matter which is often neglected. To crock—to use the technical term—a pot properly, place a piece of potsherd with its convex surface uppermost over the hole in the bottom of the pot, and then place smaller pieces in the same way over the first piece. If the concave surfaces are uppermost the crocks will form small saucers which will hold water, and when roots come in contact with stagnant water they will perish. After the crocks have been put in properly, a thin layer of moss or leaves should be placed over them to prevent the soil from being washed down amongst them and choking the drainage. The soil used for potting should neither be wet nor dry, but should be moist to the touch without being clammy. The amount of firmness to be given to the soil will depend upon the plants to be potted. Care should be taken to see that sufficient space is left at the top of the soil for the plant to be watered properly. Half an inch will be enough for a four-inch English-shaped pot, and one and a half inches for a ten-inch pot. Pot plants should never be stood on the ground, but should be placed on ashes or raised on bricks or

something of the kind. If they are stood on the ground the advantages of drainage are soon lost, as the ground underneath them becomes impervious to water and, in addition, worms are able to enter the pots. Worms may be got rid of by watering the plants with a solution of tea-oil cake or lime water. The soil of plants to be potted should not be dry at the time of the operation, for if potted when dry it is exceedingly difficult to water the plants thoroughly afterwards.

SOWING SEEDS.

There are many causes why seeds fail to germinate, and it is necessary to eliminate these as far as practicable. First of all always obtain seeds from a reliable seedsman. In ordering seeds from England instruct the seedsman to send out the seeds in air-tight cases. In a climate like that of Hongkong seeds very rapidly deteriorate in germinating power if left exposed to the atmosphere. Consequently open the tins on a fine day and sow the seeds immediately. If it is not convenient to sow all the seeds as soon as they are unpacked, repack those which are left over, in air-tight cases without delay. Seeds can, and do, arrive from England in good condition when only packed in paper bags, but the risk is so great that it is not worth taking. It is much better to have the seeds sent out as indicated above, and the cost is only a trifle more. In sowing seeds in pots and pans see that drainage is properly attended to. A light, sandy soil is preferable for most seeds; the upper layer for small seeds should be sifted through an $\frac{1}{8}$-inch sieve. Generally speaking the seeds should be covered with a layer of soil equal in depth to the diameter of the seeds. Thus Gloxinia seeds will require scarcely any soil for covering them, whilst Tropæolums should have $\frac{1}{8}$rd of an inch. After the seeds are sown, great care must be taken in watering them, as too much or too little water will mean certain failure. A good way to water newly sown seeds is as follows:—

Partly fill a bucket or other receptacle with water and carefully immerse the seed pot or pan in the water, taking care not to let the water come over the rim of the pot. In a short time damp patches will appear on the top of the soil, and as soon as these are seen take the seed pan out of the water, as the remainder of the soil will become moist by capillary attraction. By this method small seeds will not be disturbed in the operation as so often happens when they are watered from the top.

As many kinds of seeds are liable to be eaten by small ants it is advisable to put the seed pans on tables with legs standing in saucers of water. To prevent mosquitoes breeding in these saucers a small quantity of Jeyes' fluid or kerosene should be put in them as well.

The tables should be placed in a shady place and out of the wind until the seeds germinate, when they may be gradually given more sunlight.

As soon as the seedlings are big enough to handle, prick them off into boxes or pans and pot on or plant out when ready.

In sowing seeds in the ground, care should be taken to see that the soil is in a good, friable condition and that no ants are present.

To prevent seeds from being attacked by ants, boards two or three inches wide may be placed edgeways roundthe beds and given a coating of tar or Jeyes' fluid. When the tar dries anotherapplication must be given. Should there be a stream of water in proximity to the seed beds, it should be conducted round them as this will effectually prevent ants from getting into the beds from the outside. A blade of grass or a leaf will, however, form a very good bridge and such things must be carefully looked for as ants very speedily discover them.

Birds sometime are troublesome and when this is the case it is advisable to cover the seeds with netting of a mesh sufficiently small to keep the birds out.

The reasons for seeds failing to germinate may be therefore:—

1. Bad seeds.
2. Improper soil.
3. Soil too wet.
4. Soil too dry.
5. Sown too deep.
6. Sown not deep enough.
7. Improper watering after sowing.
8. Seeds eaten by ants, birds, rats, &c.
9. Sown at the wrong season.
10. Sown in the wrong situation.

From the above it will be seen how necessary it is, to ensure success, to give particular attention to the operation of seed sowing.

WATERING PLANTS.

No one can hope to become a successful gardener unless he pays particular attention to this matter. Frequently one is asked how often a certain plant should be watered. The only answer that can be given is as often as it needs it. This is a matter which can only be found out by experience, as there are so many other questions which must be considered at the same time, as for instance, the kind of plant, the size of the plant, the size of the pot it is in, the kind of pot, the health of the plant, whether it is in a shady or sunny position, whether the position is windy or not, and many other points. All the same, it is quite easy to say how a plant should be watered. When a plant in a pot is watered it should be given a good soaking. See that it gets sufficient water to permeate all the soil in the pot. This can easily be done, if the plant has been potted properly, by noticing whether the water runs out at the bottom of the pot. If it does the plant has had enough, but if not continue watering until it does. This does not apply to plants which have been allowed to become thoroughly dry in their pots. The proper way to deal with such cases

is to stand the pots in a bucket of water until the soil has become saturated. Never water by dribbles, as this causes the plant to make roots on the surface, whilst those deeper in the soil die, and the whole plant becomes stunted and ultimately perishes. In watering plants in pots always use a rose to the can as this prevents the soil from being washed out of the pots, Plants in beds and shrubberies require almost as much attention in the way of watering as those grown in pots. Such plants will thrive much more satisfactorily if they are given one thorough soaking a week rather than two or three insufficient waterings. In pots and shrubberies the surface soil should always be kept in an open condition as this prevents the plants from getting as dry as they would if the surface soil were allowed to become close and hard.

PLANTING OF SHRUBS.

Ground in which shrubs are intended to be planted should be trenched for a depth of two feet at least, and a good proportion of old stable manure added. An even layer of six inches of manure well-worked in and mixed with the soil will not be too much. The planting should be done, if possible, at the beginning of the rainy season, as the shrubs will then have the whole summer before them for growth and they will be well establised before the typhoons come along. In planting in ground prepared as above take care to see that the shrubs are not planted too low. The collar of the plant, *i.e.* the junction of the root and the stem, should be on a level with the surface of the ground—not below it—as newly trenched ground will sink considerably, and unless this precaution is taken, the recently planted shrub will be found to be in a small pond when the rains come, and this means death. On the other hand do not plant the shrubs on little hillocks as this is almost as detrimental as the former, for when planted in this way they do not get sufficient moisture at the roots.

LAWNS.

Lawns require a considerable amount of time and attention in order to keep them in good condition. During the spring and summer, weeding must be carefully attended to otherwise rank grasses and other weeds will soon spoil the turf. Rolling should be done after every shower of rain. In summer it will be necessary to cut the grass at least once a week. If worms should be troublesome they may be considerably lessened by giving the lawn a dressing of Cha-chai or tea-oil cake, the residue left after the oil is expressed from the seeds of Camellia Sasanqua. The way to prepare it is as follows:—Break up one catty of Cha-chai into a powder, and then add 15 quarts of water and boil the whole for a quarter of an hour. Then to this liquid add ten times its bulk of water and it will be ready for use. Apply with a water can through a rose, and the worms will very shortly come to the surface when they may be collected. The Cha-chai should be applied after rain. One picul of Cha-chai is sufficient to do about 700 sq. yds. of lawn.

In Hongkong, lawns are often attacked by small caterpillars which, if left unchecked, soon make havoc of the turf. They make their appearance from the end of July onwards, and are generally most prevalent in the autumn. The most beautiful lawn may be rendered quite brown and bare in a few days by their voracity. Jeyes' fluid and water in the proportion of one of the former to seventy-five of the latter will be found to be an excellent mixture for combating these pests. This liquid should be applied by means of a water can and rose.

Where lawns need re-turfing this should be done in the spring as soon as the rains set in, and care should be taken to see that nothing but turf of *Chrysopogon aciculatus*, the common turf for lawns, is used. The turves should be about 2 inches thick.

During the dry season it will greatly help to keep lawns in good condition if they are well watered two or three times a week.

PROPAGATION OF HARDWOODED PLANTS AND CREEPERS FROM CUTTINGS.

These as stated in the Calendar, should be put in towards the end of January or beginning of February. Select strong, half-ripened wood of the previous year's growth and cut them into lengths of 5 or 6 inches with 3 or 4 buds to each piece. The end which is to be inserted in the soil should be cut off smoothly with a sharp knife just below a bud. The cuttings should be inserted two inches deep in a good sandy soil which is well drained. They should be shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day until they begin to root, when the shading may be gradually dispensed with. Give the cuttings a good watering after they have been inserted, and keep the soil in a moist condition by watering at such intervals as may be required.

PROPAGATION BY LAYERS.

Many plants which are not easily increased by cuttings may be propagated by layers. This may be done in several ways but the practice generally adopted in Hongkong is as follows:—

Take a shoot of the plant to be operated on, which may readily be pegged down to the ground at a foot or eighteen inches from the growing point of the shoot and below a bud or smaller shoot, take off a ring of bark an inch or so long. Scrape the wood to make sure that none of the inner bark is left, and then peg the shoot down into prepared soil which should be similar to that used for cuttings. Cover the wound with an inch of similar soil and the operation is finished. The soil surrounding the layer should be kept moist and watered when necessary.

THE PROPAGATION OF SOFT-WOODED PLANTS.

Such plants as Geraniums, Begonias, Coleus, &c., may be easily increased by taking off the tops of the growing shoots and inserting them in properly prepared soil. Cuttings four or five inches long, cut off below a bud, will generally be found most suitable. Place the cuttings in a shady place and pot off as soon as rooted.

The time for propagating different kinds of soft-wooded plants is given in the Calendar of operations.

SEED COLLECTING.

Most of the summer flowering annuals produce seed freely, which may be collected for the following year's supply. Such things as Cockscombs, Celosias, Moonflowers and Chinese Balsams will be found to be quite as good if raised from seed collected from plants grown in the Colony, as if raised from imported seed. Many vegetable seeds too may be home-saved, such as Chinese Spinach, Brinjal, Chinese Cabbage, Cucumber and Okro.

In collecting seed always select the healthiest plants and see that the seed is thoroughly ripe. Then dry the seeds in the sun and pack them away in air-tight cases until they are required for sowing.

MANURE AND LEAFSOIL.

Stable manure will be found to be the most useful for general purposes. Procure the manure for potting operations about six months before it is required, so that it may become thoroughly fermented. For the vegetable garden it should be obtained at least three months before it is needed.

Clay's Fertilizer will be found a very useful manure for pot plants. A small quantity applied weekly produces excellent results.

Cow Manure, pig manure, blood and fowls' dung should all be put into the garden instead of in the conservancy cart.

Nightsoil is the manure "par excellence," but the many objectionable features connected with it render its use in Hongkong out of the question.

Canton Mud.—This is obtained from the river at Canton and is brought down to Hongkong in a dry state in cakes. It is especially valuable for pot plants and may be used for nearly all kinds of plants. Many plants will thrive in it alone, whilst others are greatly improved by mixing a quantity of the mud with other soils. Before using, it must be chopped up into cubes varying in size according to the pots to be used. Cubes of a quarter of an inch will be quite big enough for four inch pots, and those of one inch for ten or twelve inch pots. There are various qualities of the mud but that having a rather black appearance when dry has the greatest manurial value.

Soapsuds instead of being thrown away should be put on the lawn or the vegetable garden as they make a very good manure.

Leafsoil.—Anyone who has a garden can provide himself with leafsoil as there are always leaves falling from trees, shrubs and other plants. Instead of throwing these away place them in a heap and let them decompose. They form one of the most important manures that it is possible to get for the cultivation of Ferns, Caladiums, Achimenes and many other plants.

Before using leafsoil pass it through a half inch sieve and put all the undecomposed leaves on one side for a future sifting, and be careful to throw out all pieces of stick and to destroy worms and other insects that may be seen. There are many kinds of leaves such as those of Palms and Cycads which are unsuitable for making leafsoil on account of the long time they take to decompose. These however, should be

burnt and the ashes used as a manure. Although not so rich as leafsoil, it will be found to be very useful in the cultivation of many pot plants.

Nitrate of Soda.—Experiments made with pot plants in Hongkong proved this to be a very useful manure. Great care must be exercised, however, in its administration. If given in too strong doses it will kill the plants. Half an ounce to an ounce to a plant in a ten-inch English pot weekly will be quite sufficient.

Sulphate of Ammonia.—This has also been found to be an excellent manure for pot plants such as Coleus, Viburnums, Clerodendrons and Sunflowers. One to two ounces per week to plants in ten-inch English pots may be given and proportionate quantities to those in smaller pots.

Superphosphate of Lime.—This has not been found to be satisfactory except for a few plants. Further experiments are necessary before giving a decisive opinion on the subject.

None of these mineral manures have given definite results in the vegetable garden.

INSECT AND OTHER PESTS.

Caterpillars are one of the pests which do a lot of damage in a garden. In the vegetable garden they are particularly fond of the Cabbage family including Watercress, and in the flower garden they devour the leaves of Crinums, Nicotianas, Gloxinias and Fern fronds. Their voracious habits are well known in regard to Pine and Banian trees. The only effective way of getting rid of these insects is by hand picking.

Red Spider is a small insect which makes its appearance in dry weather or in the dry atmosphere of a green-house. When a plant has been badly attacked the leaves look as if they had been scorched. The best way of keeping it down is by constant syringing. If it is not discovered until a lot of damage had been done, it is first advisable to sponge the plants with soap and water and then keep the plants frequently syringed.

Thrips is a small, black insect which often attacks Ferns in dry weather and renders the fronds unsightly in much the same way as red spider. Constant syringing will keep the pest in check.

Weevils are rather big, nearly ½-inch long, black insects which eat the leaves of such things as Acalyphas. They do their work at night and the best way to deal with them is to put a white cloth under the bush, turn on a light and shake the bush; they will then fall into the cloth and may be gathered up and destroyed.

Mole Crickets sometimes do damage to lawns and flower beds. They bore in the ground and throw up big heaps of soil. They may be got rid of by pouring water in their holes which will cause them to come to the surface, when they may be caught. If a little groundnut oil is poured in on top of the water it will expedite their ascent. Besides making lawns untidy they eat the shoots of young plants.

Cockroaches often eat the young roots of Orchids as well as the flowers, and are very difficult to deal with in a tropical country. Some of them may be poisoned by phosphorus paste. If this is spread on bits of broken pot and put in their haunts the cockroaches will feed on it and die. As it is very poisonous, care should be taken to place it out of the way of children and animals. It could be put down at night and taken up again in the morning.

Snails and Slugs may be trapped by putting down such things as Lettuce and Cabbage. They will probably prefer these things to those they have been eating. If leaves of Cabbage or Lettuce be put down at night the snails and slugs will often be found under them in the morning.

Ants have been dealt with under seed sowing and worms under the article on Lawns.

Mealy Bug is a white insect which attacks Roses, Acalyphas and other shrubs in the summer time, and may be kept under by hard syringing. If it attacks a hard-leaved plant a mixture of Kerosene Emulsion and water may be used, but this would be injurious to a soft-leaved plant like the Acalypha.

Scale is a small, flat, round insect which often attacks foliage plants and the best way to get rid of it is to sponge the plants with soap and water.

Green Fly may be kept under by syringing the plants affected with tobacco water.

PLANT HOUSES.

As Hongkong possesses a winter, many plants can only be grown successfully under the shelter of a glasshouse, but such plants only require this protection through the coldest weather.

To those who do not possess a greenhouse an enclosed verandah will do almost as well.

A few of the plants which are the better for the protection afforded by a glasshouse are Anthuriums, Adiantum Farleyense, Fittonias, Peperomias, Pandanus Veitchii and Phalænopsis.

Ferns generally and most shade-loving foliage plants succeed admirably under the roof of a house composed of split bamboos. The construction of such a house is a very simple matter. Get ordinary bamboos about two inches in diameter, and split them down the middle, then cut out all the nodes and give them a coat of tar to preserve them and they will be ready for fixing. They should be put on at an angle sufficiently steep for rain to run off, and fixed with the concave side uppermost, thus forming channels, at about 1 to 1½ inches apart. It will be seen that the bamboos fixed at this distance apart carry off at least half of the rainfall and at the same time give excellent protection from the sun. The sides of the house may be made of bamboo lattice work.

All the houses (glasshouses excepted) in the Botanic Gardens are now made in this way, and they have proved to be vastly superior to those formerly used, the roofs of which were made of Japanese reeds and laid on flat. Many of the East Indian Orchids can be grown under the shade of such a house.

SOIL FOR POTTING.

Good loam from an old pasture which is so much esteemed in England for potting purposes is unobtainable in Hongkong. In fact much of the soil which is rejected at home for pot plants, as not being good enough, would be considered highly valuable if it were obtainable in the Colony.

Some fairly good soil can be got from the neighbouring islands but it is expensive and most people have to do the best they can with the soil they find in their gardens.

For general potting purposes the following compost has been found to give satisfactory results—three parts garden soil, one part manure, half part leafsoil and half part sand.

There are numerous plants which prefer a different mixture, but I will give particulars about these under the names of the plants treated in detail.

PLANTS SUITABLE FOR THE PEAK.

CLIMBERS.

Akebia lobata.
Allamanda Hendersonii.
Beaumontia grandiflora.
Bougainvillea glabra.
„ spectabilis.
Ficus repens.
Hedera Helix (Ivy).
Hiptage Madablota.
Ipomœa Leari.
Lonicera longiflora.
„ macrantha.
„ reticulata.

Passiflora Watsoniana.
,, "Constance Elliott."
,, quadrangularis.
Trachelospermun jasminoides.
Wistaria sinensis.
Vitis himalayana.

TREES, SHRUBS, &C.

Abelia chinensis.
Acalypha marginata.
,, tricolor.
Agapanthus umbellatus.
Agave americana.
Aglaia odorata.
Aleurites cordata.
,, Fordii.
,, triloba.
Allamanda cathartica.
,, Schottii.
,, neriifolia.
Alpinia nutans.
Alsophila tomentosa.
Alternanthera.
Aralia japonica.
Archontophœnix Alexdandræ.
Ardisia crenata.
Arundina chinensis.
Aspidistra lurida.
Bambusa Fortunei.
,, nana.
,, tuldoides.
Barleria cristata.
Biota orientalis.
Bletia hyacinthina.
Bromelia thyrsoidea.
Brugmansia arborea.
Buddleia Lindleyana.
Camellias.
Cannas.

Cinnamomum Camphora (Camphor Tree).
Clivia nobilis.
Crinum asiaticum.
Crotons.
Cryptomeria japonica.
Curculigo recurvata.
Cycas media.
„ revoluta.
Deutzia gracilis.
„ scabra.
Duranta Plumieri.
Erythrina Crista-galli.
Ficus retusa.
Gardenia florida.
Gordonia anomala.
Hedychium coronarium.
Hemerocallis fulva.
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis.
„ Lambertianus.
„ schizopetalus.
„ mutabilis.
Hydrangea hortensia.
Hypericum chinense.
Iris dichotoma.
„ japonica.
Jasminum humile.
„ primulinum.
Juniperus communis.
Lagerstrœmia indica.
Laurus canariensis.
Lespedeza Sieboldii.
Ligustrum glabrum.
Linum trigynum.
Livistona chinensis (Fan Palm).
Magnolia pumila.
Michelia fuscata.
Murraya exotica.
Mussænda pubescens.
Myrtus communis.
Nandina domestica (Sacred Bamboo).
Nerium oleander.
Oranges.

Olea fragrans.
Ophiopogon Jaburan.
Pancratium biflorum.
Pandanus graminifolius.
Pardanthus chinensis.
Pavetta indica.
Phaius grandifolius.
Pittosporum Tobira.
Plumbago capensis.
Podocarpus chinensis.
Pyrus japonica.
Rhaphiolepis indica.
Rhapis flabelliformis (Ground Rattan).
Rhododendron indicum.
,, ledifolium.
,, phœniceum.
Rhodoleia Champoni.
Roses.
Rubus rosæfolius.
Russelia juncea.
Serissa fœtida.
Tabernæmontana coronaria.
Tithonia diversifolia.
Viburnum odoratissimum.
,, tomentosum.
Yucca aloifolia.
,, gloriosa.
Zephyranthes carinata.
,, rosea.
,, tubispatha.

FLOWER GARDEN CALENDAR.

JANUARY.

Cuttings of Violets, Geraniums and Hydrangeas may be put in at the beginning of the month.

Pot on Heliotropes and Hydrangeas propagated last year into flowering pots.

Gloxinias pot into three-inch and four-inch pots from pans which they were put in last month.

Cuttings of the following flowering shrubs may be made at the end of month:—Abelia chinensis, Allamandas, Barleria cristata, Beloperone oblongata, Buddleia asiatica, Cassia bicapsularis, Clerodendrons, Cestrum nocturnum, Datura arborea, Deutzia gracilis, Deutzia scabra, Erythrina Crista-galli, Euphorbia splendens, Gardenias, Hibiscus, Hypericum chinense, Jasminums, Lagerstrœmia indica, Mussænda frondosa, Myrtus communis, Nerium oleander, Plumbago capensis, Poinsettias, Rondeletia speciosa, China Roses, Russelia juncea, Spiræa cantoniensis, Spiræa Blumei, Tabernæmontana coronaria, and Viburnum tomentosum.

The following flowering shrubs may be layered:—

Brunfelsias, Ligustrum japonicum, Murraya exotica, Oxera pulchella, and Pittosporum Tobira.

Cuttings of the following creepers may now be put in:—Beaumontia grandiflora, Bignonias, Solanum Wendlandii, Hiptage madablota, Loniceras, Quisqualis indica, Tecoma capensis, Tecoma jasminoides, Tecoma Lindleyana, Thunbergia laurifolia, Passiflora Watsoniana, and Vitis himalayana.

The following creepers may be layered:—Antigonon, Bougainvilleas, Ficus repens, Passiflora princeps, Trachelospermum jasminoides, and Wistaria sinensis.

The following may be pruned after sufficient cuttings have been taken off:—Allamandas, Barleria cristata, Cassia bicapsularis, Clerodendron nutans, Hibiscus, Jasminums, Lagerstrœmia indica, and Plumbago capensis.

Cuttings of Heliotrope may be put in to form plants to stand over the summer.

Towards the end of the month Gloxinias will be big enough to be shifted into their flowering pots.

Sowings of Sunflowers may be made for succession.

FEBRUARY.

Chrysanthemum cuttings should now be put in.

Heliotropes may still be potted on.

Crotons propagated last summer may be potted on.

Put pots and soil under cover for potting purposes next month.

Bignonia venusta prune and re-tie if it has finished flowering.

Another sowing of Sunflowers may be made.

Seeds of Verbena venosa may be sown — the plants will flower in July.

MARCH.

Coleus propagate for pots and beds.

Caladiums will now be starting into growth and should be potted.

Pot off Chrysanthemums from cutting pots.

Seeds of the following may be sown: — Sunflowers, Clitoria Ternatea, Zinnias, Torenia Fournieri, Ipomœa Quamoclit, Cockscombs, Balsams, Isotoma longiflora, Moonflower, Amaranthus globosus, Amaranthus tricolor, Amaranthus melanochilus, Gynadropsis pentaphylla, Ipomœa imperialis, Pentapetes phœnicea and Ipomœa coccinea.

Prune Poinsettias.

Put in cuttings of Begonias, Fittonias, Acalyphas, Cissus argentea, Cissus discolor, Dieffenbachias, Dracænas, Hoffmannias, Panax fruticosa, Panax Guilfoylei, Pandanus Veitchii and Panicum variegatum.

Cannas and Hedychiums take up, divide and re-plant.

Give shrubberies a dressing of manure.

Achimenes may now be potted, particular attention being given to the drainage.

Pot on the following:—Strobilanthes Dyerianus, Ærua sanguinolenta, Hypericum chinense, Russelia juncea, Pentas carnea, Clerodendron Thomsoniæ, Clerodendron nutans, Cestrum aurantiacum, Allamandas, Beloperone oblongata, Plumbago capensis, and Linum trigynum.

Annuals sown at the beginning of the month transplant into boxes or pans.

Cuttings of Hydrangeas put in in January should now be rooted and may be potted.

Order flower seeds from England for sowing in the autumn.

Seeds of Chinese Palms may be sown.

APRIL.

Cuttings of Dracænas may now be made.

Coleus and Balsams plant in beds and pot on for specimen plants.

Chrysanthemums may be potted on if ready.

Creepers and Hardwooded plants propagated in January should now be rooted and may be potted off.

Cuttings of Pentas carnea may be put in, and last year's plants should be potted for flowering in the summer.

Phaius grandifolius should be potted as soon as they have finished flowering.

Viburnum tomentosum should be potted for flowering next spring.

Adiantums from spores sown in September last will now be big enough for putting into three-inch pots.

Give lawns a dressing of manure.

Seeds of the following may be sown for succession:—

Chinese Balsam, Sunflower, giant; Cockscombs, Ipomœa Quamoclit, Torenia Fournieri, Clitoria Ternatea, Moonflower, Amaranthus globosus, and Gynadropsis pentaphylla.

Adiantum Farleyense should now be potted.

MAY.

Annuals sown in March will now be ready for potting on for flowering specimens and for planting in beds.

Allamandas and Buddleias should be re-potted.

Pot on Crossandra infundibuliformis for specimens.

Cuttings of Eupatorium atro-rubens may now be out in, also another batch of Coleus cuttings.

Poinsettias should be put into flowering pots.

Freesias will now have finished their growth and should be kept dry.

Geraniums and Heliotropes will keep better through the summer if protected from heavy rains. Verandahs are suitable places for keeping them in.

The following seeds may be sown:—Chinese Balsam, Sunflower, Amaranthus globosus, Ipomœa Quamoclit, Cockscombs, Torenia Fournieri, Clitoria Ternatea, and Gynadropsis pentaphylla.

JUNE.

Chrysanthemums put into flowering pots.

Pandanus graminifolius may now be propagated by cuttings.

Callas put under cover from rain and keep dry.

Adiantums may now be potted from three-inch pots into four-inch.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Celosias, Chinese Balsam, Torenia Fournieri, Sunflower, Moonflower, Pentapetes, Ipomœa Quamoclit, Amaranthus globosus and Cockscombs.

Collect seeds of Chinese Balsams for sowing next year.

Hydrangeas propagated in January last, may now be moved from six-inch into seven-inch pots.

JULY.

The first batch of Dahlias may now be potted.

Cuttings of Crotons may now be put in.

About the middle of the month, cuttings of Heliotrope may be put in.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Chinese Balsam, Celosia, Sunflower, Portulaca, Ipomœa Quamoclit; Torenia Fournieri, Moonflower and Clitoria Ternatea.

Towards the end of the month look out for lawn caterpillars as these pests soon damage the best piece of turf. A dressing of Jeyes' fluid and water, in the proportion of one of the former to seventy five of the latter, will be found to have a very beneficial effect.

Cineraria seed may now be sown but equally good results may be obtained if the sowing is delayed until October.

Plants in shrubberies, and creepers, will want judicious pruning to prevent overcrowding.

Collect any ripe seeds of Annuals.

AUGUST.

Cuttings of African Marigolds, Salvias, Marguerites and Acalyphas may be made.

Sow seeds of the following:—Chinese Balsam and Sunflower.

Cuttings of Linum trigynum root readily if put in now.

Eupatorium atro-rubens may now be put into flowering pots.

The first batch of Violets may be potted.

Croton cuttings put in last month will be ready for potting off towards the end of the month.

The first lot of Freesias may now be potted.

The growths of Lilium longiflorum will have died down by the end of the month and the bulbs may be taken up and kept dry.

Order bulbs of Lilium speciosum and Lilium auratum from Japan.

Palm seedlings from seeds sown in March may now be potted off, if not already done.

SEPTEMBER.

Lilium longiflorum put in beds and pots.

Heliotrope propagate for succession.

Heliotrope propagated in July may now be potted on for specimens and planted in beds.

Sow the following seeds:—Chinese Balsam, Sunflower, Marigold, French and African; Sweet Alyssum and Verbena.

Salvias propagated last month pot off, and put in more cuttings for succession.

Freesias pot second batch, likewise Violets.

Geraniums pot towards the end of the month.

Sow spores of Adiantums.

Get pans, pots, soil, &c., ready for sowing seeds next month.

Order Narcissus Tazetta bulbs (Chinese Sacred Lily).

OCTOBER.

Seeds of the following may now be sown:—French and African Marigolds, Nicotianas, Phlox Drummondii, Tagetes signata, Cineraria, Fibrous-rooted Begonia, Collinsia bicolor, Coreopsis, Larkspur, Sunflower, Dianthus Heddewigii, Dianthus chinensis, Calendula pluvialis, Cobæa scandens, Calceolaria scabiosæfolia, Daisy, Delphinium anthriscifolium, Sweet Alyssum, Saponaria calabrica, Candytuft, Virginian Stocks, Petunia, Gloxinia, Golden feather, Sedum formosanum, Antirrhinum, Tropaeolum, Carnation, Marguerite, Mignonette, Lupines, (blue and yellow), Pansy.

Callas may now be re-potted.

Roses may be pruned and cuttings put in.

Leafsoil sift, as it will be required for potting annuals shortly.

Gladiolus brenchleyensis pot and plant in beds.

Loosen soil in shrubberries being particularly careful not to injure the roots of the shrubs, otherwise more harm than good will be done.

Roses should be given a good dressing of manure.

The last batch of Violets and Freesias may now be potted.

Seeds of Freesias may now be sown and the seedlings will flower in April.

Plant Verbenas in pots and beds.

Some of the Annuals sown at the beginning of the month will be ready for potting and planting in beds towards the end of the month.

Heliotropes may be propagated for succession.

Cuttings of Ærua sanguinolenta and Strobilanthes Dyerianus should be put in to stand over the winter.

If necessary, water Roses in beds.

NOVEMBER.

Make a second sowing, if not already done, of any Annuals that have failed.

Coleus propagate to stand over the winter.

Tender leaved plants such as Fittonias, Pandanus Veitchii, Peperomias and Anthuriums should be put in the most sheltered positions, (under glass if possible) to stand over the winter.

A lot of Annuals will still require potting.

Liliums ordered from Japan should have arrived and should be potted.

Narcissus Tazetta (the Chinese Sacred Lily) may now be potted and planted in beds.

Carnations pot singly into four-inch pots.

DECEMBER.

Seeds of Sunflower may be sown.

Cuttings of Geraniums put in.

Gloxinias prick off in pans.

Narcissus, second batch, may be potted.

Cuttings of Verbenas, Violets and Heliotropes may be put in.

Carnations may be put into flowering pots.

VEGETABLE GARDEN CALENDAR.

JANUARY.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Radish, Turnip, Chinese Spinach, French Beans, Peas, Cucumber, Lettuce, Tomato, Vegetable Marrow, Sweet Corn and Chinese Long Beans.

Plant out young plants of the following:—Cabbage, Lettuce, Endive, Kohl Rabi and Brinjal.

Earth up Celery as required, previous to which give the beds a good watering.

Tie up Cos Lettuce to blanch them, and put flower pots over Endive for the same purpose.

Put in cuttings of Tomatoes, as plants raised in this way fruit earlier than those from seed.

Fresh beds of Watercress may be made.

FEBRUARY.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Radish, Turnip, Chinese Spinach, French Beans, Peas, Cucumber, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Long Beans, Water Spinach, Ochroes and Sword Beans.

Put out young plants of the following:—Lettuce, Vegetable Marrow, Tomato, Cucumber and Brinjal.

Towards the end of the month Jerusalem Artichokes may be planted.

Asparagus beds may now be manured.

Lettuce and Endive blanch for succession.

Earth up Celery for succession.

MARCH.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Radish, Turnip, Chinese Spinach, French Beans, Cucumber, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Long Bean and Ochroes.

Plant out any seedlings ready from last month's sowings.

Canavalias should be planted about 10 ft. apart.

Watercress may still be planted.

Plant out Tomatoes raised from cuttings.

Brinjals may be planted.

Get stakes ready for Cucumbers, Canavalias (Sword Bean) and Chinese Long Beans.

Order vegetable seeds from England.

Instruct seedsman to despatch Celery seed in time to arrive by first week in July, and Tomato seed by first week in August.

Procure manure so that it may be in good condition for winter crops.

Jerusalem Artichokes may still be planted.

APRIL.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Chinese Spinach, French Beans, Cucumber, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Long Beans, Ockro and Brinjal.

Plant out seedlings (raised last month) of Cucumber, Lettuce and Ockroes.

Stake Canavalias, Cucumbers and Long Beans as they require it.

Keep the surface of the beds in good condition with the Dutch hoe. Plants cannot thrive with a hard, baked surface to the soil.

MAY.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Chinese Spinach, French Beans, Cucumber, Lettuce, Sweet Corn and Chinese Long Beans.

Put out last month's seedlings of Cucumber, Lettuce, Ockro and Brinjal.

Seedlings of Chinese Spinach may be planted out if desired, but if frequent sowings are made this is not necessary as seedlings pulled from the seed-bed are more tender than those which have been transplanted.

Attend to the staking of Cucumbers and Long Beans.

JUNE.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Chinese Spinach, Cucumber, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Long and Short Beans, Chinese Green and White Cabbage.

Thin out some of the leaves of Chinese Long Beans.

Brinjals will be better if they have some of their leaves taken off, as they will continue to bear much longer, especially if they are given a little more manure at the roots.

JULY.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Chinese Spinach, Cucumber, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Short Beans, Celery, Chinese White and Green Cabbage.

Short Beans sown last month will require staking.

AUGUST.

Short Beans sown last month will require staking. Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Chinese Spinach, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Green and White Cabbage, Celery, Tomatoes and Carrots.

Dig over all vacant ground so that it will be in good condition for sowing seeds in September and October.

SEPTEMBER.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Chinese Spinach, Lettuce, Sweet Corn, Chinese Green and White Cabbage, Radish, Beet,

Globe and Egyptian Turnip-rooted; Carrot, Sutton's Inimitable Forcing; Cabbage, Little Pixie; Cauliflower, Vegetable Marrow and Celery.

Plant out Tomatoes.

Transplant Celery from seed pans into nurse beds.

Towards the end of the month manure the beds for the bulk of the winter crops.

Obtain Brinjal seeds for sowing next month.

OCTOBER.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Lettuce, Chinese Green and White Cabbage, Radish, Beet, Carrot, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Brussels Sprout, Endive, Prickly Spinach, Turnip, Parsnip, Salsify, Pea, French Bean, Thyme, Sage, Marjoram, Parsley, Brinjal, Chillies, Asparagus, Leek, Savoy Cabbage and Kohl Rabi.

Plant out Cabbage, Cauliflower, Vegetable Marrow and Celery.

Potatoes may be planted about the middle of the month.

Order Sweet Corn from America or Australia.

Procure seeds of Ockroes, Water Spinach and Chinese Spinach.

NOVEMBER.

The same kinds of seeds as last month may be sown either for succession or to replace failures.

Plant Celery, Potatoes, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brussels Sprouts, Lettuce, Endive, Kohl Rabi, &c.

Earth up first bed of Celery, also of Potatoes.

Tie up Lettuce to blanch them. Lettuce plants through the summer will never be big enough to tie up, but with cooler weather the plants will be bigger and this may be done.

DECEMBER.

Seeds of the following may be sown:—Mustard and Cress, Lettuce, Radish, Cabbage, Celery, Turnip, Peas and French Beans.

Plant out seedlings of Celery, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Lettuce, &c.

Earth up Celery and Potatoes.

Keep the soil well stirred in the beds and see that everything is watered sufficiently.

PALMS.

Nearly everyone grows palms, and the Colony would be very badly off it it were deprived of this particular class of plant. For decorative purposes there is nothing to equal them. They nearly all succeed best when grown is a rather shady situation, as when grown in the sun they are liable to get yellow. During the summer months it is almost impossible to give them too much water, provided the drainage is all right. If they do not get enough it will soon show in the less intense greenness of the leaves. In the winter months much less water will suffice, but they must not be allowed to get dry at the roots. They like a good, rich soil, and if large specimens are required they must be frequently repotted.

LIVISTONA.

L. chinensis.—This is the ordinary Chinese Fan Palm, and may be raised from seeds by sowing in March as soon as the seed is ripe. Cover the seeds with about their own thickness of soil, place them in a shady position, and keep them well watered. In about three months' time the seed will germinate, and as soon as the seedlings are four or five inches high they may be potted off. If they are kept growing, plants two feet high may be had in two years from the time of sowing the seed.

ARCHONTOPHOENIX.

L. alexandræ.—This Palm is largely grown for decorative purposes but its form is quite different from that of the Fan Palm. It produces a stem as

soon as it gets out of the seedling stage, and its leaves are feathery instead of being fan-shaped. Seeds are ripe at the beginning of the year, and if they are sown then, plants three feet high can be obtained in two years. The seeds take about the same time as those of the Fan Palm to germinate. This Palm is a native of Queensland.

RHAPIS.

R. flabelliformis.—This is the ground rattan, the stems of which are exported to England in large quantities for making umbrella handles and walking sticks. It is not a graceful plant, being too stiff, but is useful for filling in corners and for planting in rockeries. Several stems grow from one root in an erect position, and the leaves are produced on these. They are fan-shaped but split up into several divisions, and are not very large. This plant grows in the shady woods of the Happy Valley, and in similar places in the Colony. It may be propagated by division in the spring.

COCOS.

C. plumosa.—Although this plant is pretty well known it is not grown in anything like such large quantities as the three former. It is an exceedingly graceful plant with long, feathery leaves, which are produced at the top of a stem. It may be raised from seed in the same way as those previously mentioned. It is a native of Brazil.

CARYOTA.

C. urens.—This is another erect-growing palm with very curiously cut leaves. If planted in the ground it grows to a height of fifty or sixty feet, but dies after flowering.

CHRYSALIDOCARPUS.

C. lutescens.—This plant, which is a native of Mauritius, is known locally as the Bamboo Palm. It is to be met with in very few gardens at present, but it is without doubt the most graceful of all palms

grown in the Colony. It grows in clumps like bamboos, and its stems are furnished with long, feathery leaves. It can be increased by division in the spring. Very few of the large specimens in the island fruit regularly, otherwise this would be a quicker means of propagation. This species should be given a warm corner in the winter, as its leaves are liable to turn yellow in cold weather.

All palms should be kept out of the wind as much as possible, or their leaves will be considerably damaged.

FERNS.

The culture of ferns, except *Adiantums* which are treated separately, may be easily undertaken by anyone possessing such a bamboo-roofed house as that mentioned on a previous page. The things to remember are that they dislike the wind, and like shade and moisture. They will be found to succeed in a soil composed of one part garden soil, one part Canton mud, two parts leafsoil and half part sand. The best time to begin the potting of ferns is in February, and they may be put into larger pots if required any time through the summer. They may be increased by division.

ADIANTUM.

A large genus of tropical and temperate ferns which are commonly known as maidenhair fern.

As these are general favourites in the Colony, I will give details of how they may be raised from spores. From several years' experience I have found that towards the end of September is the best time for this work.

The soil used for the purpose should be light, and a compost of one part garden soil, one part leafsoil and one part sand will be found satisfactory. Before using the soil, either bake or boil it to kill any seeds or insects that may be in it. If boiling is preferred it must be thoroughly dried before use. Having decided upon the pots to be used, (6-inch English shape is a good size), crock them to within three inches from the top and put a thin layer of moss over the crocks. Now put in two inches of soil and they are ready for sowing. Select fronds bearing spores from strong, healthy plants, and lay the fronds on the top of the soil. The fronds will probably have to be broken into two or three parts to get them into the pots. Put pieces of glass over the tops of the pots and the sowing operations are finished.

Let the fronds remain on the top of the soil for two or three weeks as by this time all the spore cases will have opened and the spores will have fallen out. Then remove the fronds and water the soil for the first time by immersing the pots nearly up to the brim in a bucket of water. As soon as dampness shows through the soil take the pots out of the water; as the remainder of the soil will soon become moistened by capillary action. Place the glasses over the tops of the pots again and keep the soil moist from this time. Watering with a can would wash all the spores to the sides of the pots as they are so small, and this is to be avoided.

In a month or two, green growths will be found to be making their appearance. These are called prothalli but are not the fern proper. In another month or so the young ferns will appear and by February or March they will be big enough to prick off into pans. The soil for this may be made up of three parts Canton mud chopped into $\frac{1}{4}$-inch blocks, two parts leafsoil and half part garden soil well mixed. As soon as the young ferns are big enough, they may be potted into three-inch English-shaped pots, and into larger ones later on as required, using the same compost as before.

Adiantums like a shady, moist situation and even when the spores are sown they must receive this attention or failure will be the result. Adiantum cuneatum and nearly all the other Adiantums dislike wind and they must be kept out of it as much as possible, but this does not mean that they do not like ventilation. On the contrary unless they get plenty of fresh air they will not succeed. A pinch or two of Clays' Fertilizer given once a week will be found to give vigour to the plants.

A. Farleyense cannot be raised from spores and must be increased by division. It also requires considerably more attention than the other varieties, and should be continuously grown in a glasshouse. The best time for potting this plant is in April and the soil it succeeds in is composed of one part garden soil, two parts leafsoil, two parts Canton mud and one part broken potsherds. The pots must be well drained, as this fern is particularly fastidious.

ADIANTUM.

A. æthiopicum.—Stipes six inches to nine inches long, rather slender, erect. Fronds twelve inches to eighteen inches long, six inches to nine inches broad, deltoid. Thrives best in a glasshouse.

A. Bausei.—Fronds, including stipes, one and a half feet to two and a half feet long, spreading, triangular. The pinnæ are deflexed and give the plant a curious appearance as if it were drooping for want of water. Requires the protection of a glasshouse. A garden hybrid.

A. Capillus-Veneris.—The true Maidenhair Fern. Stipes sub-erect, rather slender, four inches to nine inches long. Fronds variable in size. Grows well under a bamboo-roofed house. A cosmopolitan species.

A. concinnum.—Stipes four inches to eight inches long. Fronds twelve inches to eighteen inches long, ovate-deltoid, more or less drooping. Should be grown under glass. A native of tropical America.

A. cuneatum.—Stipes six inches to nine inches long, slender, erect. Fronds nine inches to twelve inches long, deltoid. One of the best known of the Adiantums, in great demand for bouquets and dinner table decoration. Thrives best under glass. A Brazilian plant.

A. cyclosorum.—Stipes stoutish, glossy, black, eight inches to twelve inches long. Fronds one and a half feet to two feet long, triangular. Should be grown in a glasshouse. A South American species.

A. diaphanum.—Stipes four inches to eight inches long, slender, erect. Fronds about six inches long, simply pinnate or with two or three branches at the base. A native of China and does not need a glasshouse.

A. Farleyense.—Stipes one foot or more high. Fronds one foot to two feet long, nine inches to eighteen inches broad, deltoid. The finest of the Adiantums. It needs the protection of a glasshouse. A variety of *A. tenerum* and introduced from Barbados.

A. Fergusoni.—Stipes long, glossy, purplish-black. Fronds triangular, ovate, one and a half feet long, erect. Should be grown in a glasshouse. A pretty fern from Ceylon.

A. flabellulatum.—Stipes erect, six inches to nine inches high. Fronds dichotomously branched, fan-shaped. Thrives under a bamboo roof. A Hongkong plant.

A. formosum.—Stipes twelve inches to eighteen inches high, strong, erect. Fronds eighteen inches to twenty-four inches long, deltoid. Can be grown under a bamboo roof. An Australian species.

A. gracillimmum.—Fronds nine inches to eighteen inches long, deltoid. A very pretty variety of *A. cuneatum* but with much smaller primules than that species. Succeeds best in a glasshouse.

A. hispidulum.—Stipes six inches to twelve inches long, strong, erect. Fronds dichotomous, more or less fan-shaped, six inches to nine inches long. Does not need a glasshouse. A native of tropical India and China.

A. lunulatum.—Stipes four inches to six inches long. Fronds six inches to twelve inches long, simply pinnate. A pretty species which dies down in winter. Will thrive under a bamboo roof. A native of Hongkong.

A. Pacotti.—A pretty little variety of *A. cuneatum*, about six inches high, in which the pinnæ and pinnules are very closely set. Should be grown under glass.

A. peruvianum.—Stipes nine inches to eighteen inches long, strong, erect. Fronds as long as the stipes or longer, simply pinnate. Pinnæ two inches broad or more. A very fine species but needs to be grown under glass.

A. scutum.—Fronds eighteen inches to twenty-four inches long, deltoid. A variety of *A. tenerum* but pinnæ thicker in texture and less dense than in that species. Of garden origin and should be grown in a glasshouse.

A. tenerum.—Stipes one foot or more high, erect. Fronds one foot to two feet long, deltoid. A very fine species needing the protection of glass. Introduced from Mexico.

A. trapeziforme.—Stipes one foot high, strong, erect. Fronds twelve inches to eighteen inches long; with several pinnæ, the segments of which are one and a half inches to two inches long and three-quarter inch broad. Will thrive in a bamboo-roofed house. A grand species from the West Indies.

ALSOPHILA.

A genus of three ferns of which two or three species are known to thrive in Hongkong.

A. tomentosa.—Trunks up to thirty feet high. Fronds up to twelve feet long and several feet across. This is the tree fern which grows so well in the Glenealy ravine. It is a native of Formosa and has become naturalized in one or two places in Hongkong.

A. podophylla.—Trunks four feet to six feet high. Fronds six feet or more long. This is a native species but cannot be compared with the former for beauty.

ANGIOPTERIS.

A. evecta.—A gigantic fern with an erect caudex which varies from a few inches to several feet high. Fronds from six feet to fifteen feet in length. A not uncommon plant in some of the Hongkong woods.

ASPIDIUM.

A genus containing many species of which the following are amongst those which have been found to succeed under cultivation in Hongkong.

A. aristatum.—Rhizome creeping; stipes scattered, nine inches to eighteen inches long, very scaly below. Fronds one foot to one and a half feet long. Teeth of pinnules aristate. A native of China and Japan.

A. auriculatum.—Stipes tufted, four inches to six inches long. Fronds twelve inches long, two inches to four inches broad. A native of India and China.

A. falcatum.—Stipes tufted, six inches to twelve inches long. Fronds one foot to two feet long, six inches to nine inches broad. A Chinese species.

A. laserpitiifolium.—Stipes four inches to six inches long. Fronds twelve inches to eighteen inches long, six inches to nine inches broad, deltoid. A beautiful species. A native of China and Japan.

ASPLENIUM.

Many species are contained in the genus and those enumerated below are known to succeed in Hongkong under cultivation.

A. cuneatum.—Stipes tufted, six inches to nine inches long. Fronds six inches to fifteen-inches long, six inches to nine inches broad, deltoid. Widely distributed in the tropics.

A. esculentum.—Stipes one foot to two feet long. Fronds sometimes four feet long. This plant needs abundance of water throughout the summer. Found in India and China.

A. lanceum.—Stipes scattered, four inches to six inches long. Fronds six inches to nine inches long, entire. A native of Hongkong.

A. Nidus.—Fronds entire, two feet to four feet long, three inches to eight inches broad. The Bird's-nest Fern. A Hongkong species.

A. resectum.—Stipes scattered, four inches to eight inches long. Fronds six inches to twelve inches long, two inches to four inches broad, lanceolate-oblong. An Indian species.

A. rutæfolium.—Stipes tufted, four inches to eight inches long. Fronds six inches to twelve inches long, ovate-deltoid, rooting at the apex. Found in Hongkong and China.

BLECHNUM.

Amongst the species in this genus are several small tree ferns.

B. braziliense.—Caudex erect, stout, one foot to two feet high. Fronds two feet to three feet long, six inches to sixteen inches broad. A Brazilian plant.

B. orientale.—Caudex stout, erect, short. Fronds one foot to three feet long, six inches to twelve inches broad. A common fern in Hongkong.

BRAINEA.

B. insignis.—A very handsome, small tree fern. Trunk one foot to three feet high. Fronds two feet to three feet long, eight inches to twelve inches broad. A native of Hongkong.

DAVALLIA.

A large genus consisting of species with creeping rhizomes.

D. bullata.—Rhizome stout, densely fibrillose. Stipes strong, erect, three inches to four inches long. Fronds eight inches to ten inches long, four inches to six inches broad, deltoid. The rhizomes of this species are often made into balls and other forms, expecially those of animals, by the Japanese.

D. divaricata.—Rhizome stout, scaly. Stipes firm, erect, six inches to twelve inches long. Fronds two feet to three feet long and one and a half feet to two feet broad. A handsome plant native of Hongkong.

D. fijensis.—Rhizome stout, slightly fibrillose. Stipes six inches to nine inches long, strong, erect. Fronds one foot to one foot and a half long, six inches to twelve inches broad, deltoid. A very graceful fern from Fiji.

D. hirta.—Stipes strong, one foot to two feet long. Fronds three feet or more long, one foot or more broad. An Indian species.

D. platyphylla.—Stipes two feet or more long. firm, erect. Fronds three feet and upwards long, one and a half feet or more broad. An East Indian plant.

D. solida.—Rhizome stout, densely scaly. Stipes strong, erect, four inches to six inches long, Fronds one foot to two feet long, one foot to one and a half feet broad.

D. tenuifolia.—Stipes strong, erect, six inches to twelve inches long. Fronds one foot to one and a half feet long, six inches to nine inches broad, ovate. A very pretty species and a native of Hongkong.

GYMNOGRAMME.

A genus comprising gold and silver ferns many of which are very beautiful.

G. calomelanos.—Stipes tufted, six inches to twelve inches long. Fronds one foot to three feet long, six inches to twelve inches broad. Powder on under side of fronds white.

G. calomelanos.—var. *chrysophylla.* Somewhat similar to the type but with yellow powder on the under side of the fronds.

G. japonica.—Stipes six inches or more long. Fronds one and a half feet to two feet long, one foot broad. Under surface of fronds not powdery. A native of Japan.

G. japonica.—Stipes one foot or more long, also fronds. Both surfaces of fronds glossy. Tropics of the old world.

NEPHRODIUM.

A very large genus including species which vary very much in size, texture, cutting and venation.

N. decompositum.—Stipes one foot or less long. Fronds nine feet or more long, deltoid. Found in Australia and Fiji.

N. decurrens.—Stipes narrowly winged. Fronds two feet long and one foot broad. A native of tropical Asia.

N. leuzeanum.—Caudex erect, densely scaly at the crown. Stipes two feet to three feet long, stout, stricted. Fronds four feet or more long, two feet to three feet broad. A very beautiful fern. Found sparingly in Hongkong.

N. sophoroides.—Stipes one foot or more long, slender, pubescent. Fronds one foot to two feet long and six inches to nine inches broad. A Japanese and Chinese species.

NEPHROLEPIS.

This genus contains two or three species which are largely grown in Hongkong and are very useful whether grown in pots, baskets or rockeries.

N. acuta.—Stipes tufted, four inches to eight inches long, firm, naked or slightly scaly. Fronds two feet to four feet long, eight inches to twelve inches broad. Very useful for rockeries. A Hongkong plant.

N. cordifolia.—Caudex sub-erect, the wiry fibres often bearing tubers. Stipes tufted, wiry, one inch

to four inches long, scaly. Fronds one foot to two feet long, one and a half inches to two inches broad. Found in Hongkong, China and elsewhere.

N. davallioides furcans.—Caudex short, stoloniferous. Stipes tufted, one foot or more long. Fronds drooping, two feet to three feet long, forked near the apex, nearly one foot broad. A very beautiful plant. The type is a native of Malaya.

N. exaltata.—Stipes tufted, four inches to six inches long, firm. Fronds one foot to two feet or more long, three inches to six inches broad. A Hongkong plant.

ONYCHIUM.

A small genus containing one species cultivated in Hongkong.

O. japonicum.—Stipes six inches to twelve inches long, stout, erect, naked. Fronds one foot long and about six inches broad, sub-erect, deltoid. A beautiful fern found in Hongkong, China and Japan.

PLATYCERIUM.

A small genus known as the Stag's-horn Ferns. They are easily distinguished by their forked, fertile fronds with stag's-horn-like divisions. They are epiphytal and succeed in pots or baskets when planted in peat and sphagnum.

P. alcicorne.—Barren fronds rounded, convex, downy when young. The fertile fronds two feet or more long, clustered, erect, two or three times branched. A native of Australia.

POLYPODIUM.

This is the largest genus of the order consisting of some 400 or 500 species many of which succeed under cultivation.

P. aureum.—Rhizome stout, wide-creeping, clothed with bright ferrugineous scales. Stipes erect, glossy, stout, one foot to two feet long. Fronds three feet or more long, nine inches to eighteen inches broad. A fine plant, native of tropical America and Australia.

P. conjugatum.—Rhizome very thick, densely matted with brown scales. Fronds two feet or more long and nearly a foot broad, arranged in a circle. A Hongkong species.

P. hemionitideum.—Stipes one inch to six inches long, firm, woody. Fronds entire, six inches to nine inches long, three inches broad, narrowed at both ends. Found in India and China.

P. Lingua.—Rhizome wide-creeping, with ferrugineous scales. Stipes three inches to six inches long, firm, erect. Fronds four inches to eight inches long, firm, erect, entire, apex often acute, base rounded. A Hongkong plant.

P. nigrescens.—Rhizome stout, scaly. Stipes one foot long, erect, glossy, firm. Fronds two feet or more long, one foot or more broad, cut into several segments. An Indian species.

P. phymatodes.—Rhizome woody, wide-creeping, with dark brown scales. Stipes three inches to twelve inches long, glossy, firm, erect. Fronds variable, sometimes two feet long and cut into numerous lobes, at other times shorter and entire An East Indian plant.

PTERIS.

A cosmopolitan genus containing many species of great decorative value.

P. biaurita.—Stipes one foot to two feet long, strong, erect, straw-coloured. Fronds with a terminal

pinna six inches to twelve inches long and one and a half inches to two inches broad, the lateral pinnæ nearly similar to the terminal one. A tropical species.

P. quadriaurita.—Stipes one foot to two feet long, brownish, strong, erect. Fronds six inches to three feet long, with many pinnæ. A tropical species.

P. serrulata.—Stipes six inches to nine inches long, erect, wiry, pale or brownish. Fronds nine inches to eighteen inches long, six inches to nine inches broad, ovate, with numerous linear segments. A very pretty plant, native of China.

WOODWARDIA.

A small genus principally confined to the North temperate zone.

W. orientalis.—Stipes erect, densely scaly at the base. Fronds four feet long or more, one foot to one and a half feet broad. Gemmiferous buds are often produced on the upper surface of the fronds. A native of China and Japan.

SELAGINELLAS.

These are very useful for rock-work and baskets and may be easily propagated by pinching the ends of the growths off and putting them in a light compost. Selaginella Wildenovii is a tall growing species with bluish leaves and may be used for covering pillars in the fernery or greenhouse. Selaginella flexuosa makes a fine pot plant. Selaginella uncinata is very conspicuous in a young state with its blue foliage and is useful for covering the ground in damp, shady places. Selaginella involvens is a curious little species three or four inches high somewhat like a miniature tree-fern. They all thrive under the same conditions as ferns.

ORCHIDS.

As several genera of the Orchidaceæ contain species with very beautiful flowers and as many of these are easy of cultivation in Hongkong, the following list, by no means exhaustive, has been included in the present issue of these notes.

AERIDES.

A. quinquevulnerum.—A species bearing white and purple flowers in graceful racemes. It can be either grown in baskets or pots in a mixture of potsherds and sphagnum moss under the shade of a bamboo-roofed house or it may be fastened to the trunks and branches of trees where it will soon establish itself. Give it plenty of water during the growing season but little when it is at rest. It is a native of the Philippines.

ARUNDINA.

A genus of Orchids with very showy flowers and worth a place in any garden. The plants are grass-like in appearance, or perhaps more like miniature bamboos. They thrive in damp, well-drained places and may be grown in pots or the ground. To increase the plants, divide them in the spring and pot them in a rich soil.

A. chinensis.—This is a Hongkong species and is found growing on Victoria Peak in dry, sunny situations where it attains a height of about nine inches; and alongside streams where it is often two or three feet high. It flowers from August onwards, and the flowers are large with white sepals and petals, and a lovely mauve lip. The colour of the flowers on the plants grown in the sun is always deeper than that of those grown in the shade.

BLETIA.

B. hyacinthina.—A deciduous ground orchid, native of China and Japan. Potting should be done before it starts into growth and a mixture of equal parts of garden soil, Canton mud, leafsoil and decayed stable manure will suit it. The flowers are purple and the scapes come up between the young leaves. It prefers a rather shady position but the protection of a house is not necessary.

CALANTHE.

These are also ground orchids and several of them grow well in Hongkong. They may be potted in the same kind of material as recommended for Bletias and should be given the protection from the sun and rain afforded by a bamboo-roofed house. Potting should be done just as they are starting into growth, but annual repotting is not necessary. The following are all natives of Hongkong but very rare in the island.

C. curculigoides.—A small yellow-flowered species with a short stem and broad plicated leaves. The flowers are produced in a dense spike.

C. gracilis.—Another yellow-flowered species with a longer and thinner stem or pseudobulb than the preceding and the spike more lax.

C. Masuca.—A purple-flowered plant with scapes from one foot to two feet high bearing several flowers. The leaves are broad and plicated something like those of the well-known Nun orchid, *Phaius grandifolius*, but smaller.

C. veratrifolia.—A white-flowered species similar in habit to that of *C. Masuca.*

CATTLEYA.

This is a South American epiphytal genus and one of the most beautiful of the whole order. The plants may be grown in pots; two-thirds filled with large potsherds for drainage and one-third with peat. The time for potting is just as they are beginning to push forth new growths and new roots. Keep the base of the plants well above the rims of the pots as they do not like stagnant water. They will need the protection of a glasshouse and should be shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day during the summer. When they are growing they should be given water freely, but after growth is completed, only sufficient should be given to keep the pseudobulbs plump. A moist atmosphere must also be maintained throughout the growing period.

C. Gigas.—Flowers six inches across, sepols and petals mauve-coloured and lip beautifully marked with crimson with two eye-like yellow blotches.

C. labiata.—Flowers six inches across, sepals and petals deep rose-coloured, front part of lip deep velvety-crimson.

C. Mendeli.—Flowers five inches across, sepals and petals white or pale mauve-coloured and lip marked with rich magenta.

C. Mossiæ.—Flowers five inches across, sepals and petals mauve-coloured and lip marked with crimson and yellow.

C. Trianæ.—Flowers several inches across, sepals and petals usually blush, lip rich purple with an orange or yellow throat.

CYMBIDIUM.

A genus of terrestrial orchids, several species of which are found in China and Japan. Many of them

have strap-shaped leaves and the flowers are often produced in pendulous racemes. They may be potted in a similar compost to that given for Bletias and Calanthes, and they should either be grown under a bamboo-roofed house or the shelter of trees. Water should be given freely through the summer months but more sparingly during the cold season.

C. aloifolium.—Leaves thick and fleshy. Flowers pale purple with a long almost black stripe down the centre. Racemes drooping about one foot long.

C. pendulum.—Leaves long, narrow, thick and leathery. Sepals and petals brown, lip red-striped with white. Racemes drooping, one foot to two feet long, many flowered.

C. sinense.—Leaves thinner and broader than in the two preceding species. Flowers very fragrant. Sepals and petals brown and purple, lip yellowish-green spotted with purple. Spikes erect, two feet to three feet high bearing numerous flowers. This species is frequently cultivated by the Chinese on account of its powerful perfume. There is a more rare variety with yellowish-green sepals and petals.

CYPRIPEDIUM.

Many species and hybrids of the Lady's Slipper Orchid may be grown either in a glasshouse or a bamboo-roofed structure. They do very well when potted in two parts peat, one part each of sphagnum, decayed leafsoil and sand. Good drainage is essential. Give water freely during the summer months and in the winter never allow the plants to become dry at the roots. Those grown in a glasshouse must be shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day in summer.

C. barbatum.—Flowers solitary several inches across. Sepals and petals white and purple; lip

blackish purple. Leaves light green blotched with irregular markings of dark green. May be grown in a bamboo structure.

C. Calurum.—Flowers large and showery, several to a scape. Sepals and petals green and rose-red; lip of a deep wine-red outside, leaves green, channelled, in a tuft. A handsome, free-flowering hybrid. It should be grown under glass.

C. Curtisii.—Flowers large, sepals and petals white streaked and dotted with brown; lip brown. Leaves yellowish-green with dark green markings. May be grown under a bamboo roof.

C. Haynaldianum.—Flowers two or more in a raceme. The flowers are multicoloured in which white, pink, green and brown predominate. The lip is green. This plant is a native of the Philippines but it does not require the protection of a glasshouse. The leaves are light green and strap-shaped.

C. insigne.—Flowers solitary, sometimes five inches across, yellowish-green and white with reddish-brown streaks and a tawny-yellow lip. Leaves yellowish green, thick. Will thrive without the protection of glass.

C. Lowii.—Somewhat similar to *C. Haynaldianum* but district. A native of Borneo but will thrive under a bamboo roof.

C. niveum.—Flowers white, generally solitary. Leaves dark green on the upper side, irregularly marked with lighter blotches; the under side purple. A pretty little species which needs the protection of a glasshouse.

C. Schroderæ.—Sepals pale reddish-green, petals whitish-green stained with purplish-crimson; lip dull crimson. Scapes several-flowered. Leaves similar to those of *C. calurum.* A very distinct hybrid which should be grown under glass.

DENDROBIUM.

A large epiphytal genus, many species of which have very beautiful flowers. They may be either grown on the trunks and branches of deciduous trees or in baskets and pots under a bamboo roof. If grown in pots or baskets they should be potted in the same way as recommended for *Cattleyas*. If grown on trees, fasten the plants, with a little sphagnum, firmly with coir string. Water the plants copiously during the summer months but gradually withhold it as colder weather sets in and the plants have finished their growth. When growth is completed, water may be withheld altogether for some weeks, and the plants given a more sunny position. At this period water is only needed to prevent the pseudobulbs from shrivelling.

D. aduncum.—Flowers rather small, white tinged with rose. Pseudobulbs two feet long. A native of Kwangtung Province.

D. aggregatum.—Flowers yellow, very showy, borne in arching racemes several inches long. Pseudobulbs very short and thick. This has been collected in Kwangtung Province.

D. chrysanthum.—Flowers in twos and threes, yellow, the lip having a dark crimson blotch. Pseudobulds from two feet to three feet long and half inch thick. A native of China.

D. crassinode.—Flowers produced from the nodes of the pseudobulbs in twos to fours. Sepals and petals waxy white tipped with rich purple; lip white with an orange blotch at the base. Pseudobulbs about a foot long with swollen joints. A Burmese species.

D. Dalhousianum.—Flowers large, three inches to five inches across and borne in drooping racemes of from six to ten flowers. Sepals and petals buff;

lip of the same colour with two large blotches of dark crimson. Pseudobulbs three feet to five feet high. An Indian plant.

D. densiflorum.—Flowers yellow, numerous, produced in dense, trooping racemes. Pseudobulbs about one foot high, stout, erect, crowned with several dark green, leathery leaves. A native of India and China including the island of Hainan. There is a very pretty variety, *albo-luteum*, with white sepals and petals.

D. fimbriatum.—Flowers about two inches across, yellow with a beautifully fringed lip and borne in pendulous racemes of six or more flowers. Pseudobulbs erect, two feet to four feet high. The variety *oculatum* has the lip blotched with deep blackish-purple.

D. formosum.—Flowers four inches across, white with a yellow throat to the lip. Spikes three to four flowered from near the top of the pseudobulbs which are about one foot high. An Indian species.

D. moschatum.—Flowers creamy white tinged with rose; lip pale yellow marked with an eye-like blotch of blackish-purple. Racemes drooping, several flowered, from the top of the pseudobulbs which are from three feet to five feet high.

D. nobile.—Flowers freely produced from the two years old pseudobulbs. Sepals and petals white, tipped with rosy-pink; lip blotched at the base with deep velvety-crimson and tipped with rosy-pink. Pseudobulbs about two feet long, erect, and half inch thick. A Chinese species.

D. Pierardii.—Flowers creamy white or delicate pink, lip primrose colour. Pseudobulbs two feet to three feet long, one-third inch thick.

D. suavissimum.—Flowers yellow. the lip ornamented with a blotch of brownish purple. and eight or more to a spike which is erect. Pseudobulbs thick, less than a foot high with three or four thick leaves at the top. A very sweetly scented Burmese species.

PERISTERIA.

P. elata.—This Mexican plant is more familiarly known as the Dove or Holy Ghost Orchid from the supposed resemblance of the lip to a dove. It succeeds when planted in a compost of two parts of peat and one of sphagnum moss with ample drainage. It should be given the protection of a glasshouse and shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day in the summer months. Abundance of water should be given during the growing period but the supply should be gradually reduced as the bulbs approach maturity. The pseudobulbs are as large as a swan's egg and the spikes which are produced from the base of the bulbs are erect and often three feet high with several white flowers about one-half inch across.

PHALAENOPSIS.

There are sometimes known as Moth Orchids and several of the species are natives of the Philippines. They thrive better when given the protection of a glasshouse although good specimens have been grown on the trunks of Banian trees in Hongkong. Put them into baskets filled with potsherds and place a little sphagnum on the top to hold the moisture, or tie them on to blocks of wood with coir string with a bit of sphagnum between the string and the roots of the plants. They must be well shaded from the sun, especially throughout the summer, and given ample quantities of water when growing. At this season too, a very damp atmosphere should be kept up. In the winter less water and a drier atmosphere will be necessary.

P. amabilis.—Flowers white, sometimes five inches across, with a few yellow streaks on the lip. Panicle with several flowers and often branching. Leaves green, broad, flat.

P. Aphrodite.—Flowers white, smaller than in the preceding and lip marked with a few streaks of crimson, orange and yellow. Panicle large, many-flowered. Leaves green, broad, thick and flat.

P. Schilleriana.—Flowers mauve, often two and a half inches across. Panicle sometimes three feet in length, branched and bearing numerous flowers. Leaves rich green mottled with light green, thick and flat.

P. Stuartiana.—Flowers cream-coloured with dark cinnamon blotches on the lateral sepals. Panicle many-flowered. Leaves mottled somewhat like *P. Schilleriana.*

RENANTHERA.

R. coccinea.—A very lovely plant when in flower and easy of cultivation. It succeeds admirably when fastened to the trunks and branches of deciduous trees. It may also be grown in pots in cocoanut husks chopped into about one inch cubes, and given good drainage. Place the plants in a rather sunny position and give them a plentiful supply of water during the summer months whilst they are growing, but gradually reduce the quantity as the colder weather sets in. During the winter they will require scarcely any and at this time they should be placed in the full sun. The panicles which are many flowered are produced from the upper part of the stems. The flowers are blood-red in colour and nearly two inches across. The plant is a native of Cochin China and the island of Hainan.

P. serrulata.—Stipes six inches to nine inches long, erect, wiry, pale or brownish. Fronds nine inches to eighteen inches long, six inches to nine inches broad, ovate, with numerous linear segments. A very pretty plant. A Chinese species.

Woodwarelia.—A small genus principally confined to the North Temperate Zone.

W. Orientalis.—Stipes erect, densely scaly at the base. Fronds four feet long or more, one foot to one and a half feet broad. Gemmiferous buds are often produced on the upper surface of the fronds. A native of China and Japan.

FLOWER GARDEN.

AGAPANTHUS.

A. umbellatus.—Blue African Lily.—This succeeds well in pots and should be grown in a light, well drained soil. The plants will be found to flower better if they are not often re-potted—allow the roots to become pot-bound.

It flowers during the summer and thrives best on a verandah where it does not get too much sun. The plant grows well enough if planted in the ground but seldom produces many flowers under such conditions.

ALLAMANDA.

This South American genus of plants provides the garden with flowers all through the summer months. They may be grown both in pots and in the ground and prefer a sunny aspect. Cuttings may be put in in February from the previous year's growth.

A. cathartica.—This species has medium-sized yellow flowers and should be grown as a shrub.

A. Hendersoni.—Very large yellow flowers and may be either grown as a shrub or a climber, for which purpose it is admirably suited. It is an excellent plant for a pergola.

A. Schottii.—Very similar to A. Hendersoni, but not quite so suitable for pillars, &c., although in England I have seen it covering an immense roof of a hothouse in conjunction with A. Hendersoni.

A. neriifolia.—This is a small-flowered species and comes into flower in February. It should be grown as a shrub.

All the species prefer a good, rich soil and those to be grown as shrubs should be pruned in January or February. Those to be grown as climbers will require little or no pruning.

Specimens grown in pots should be re-potted in April or the beginning of May.

AMARYLLIS.

This genus is more correctly known as Hippeastrum and there are numerous hybrids now in cultivation. They succeed best when planted in rich soil in a well-drained, sunny situation.

They may be equally well grown in pots and one bulb to a six or seven-inch pot is sufficient. Use a mixture of equal parts garden soil and old stable manure for potting, and see that the pots are well crocked. They should be potted in February and water given to them sparingly at first. The flowers will begin to appear from March onwards and they are generally at their best in April. In the autumn, after they have finished their growth, gradually withhold water and give the bulbs as much sun as possible. They may be easily raised from seeds and will flower when they are three years old.

A. formosissima.—This is a small, dark crimsoned flowered species and its culture is the same as that for the hybrids. It is also known as *Sprekelia formosissima.*

ANTIGONON.

A. leptopus.—A beautiful Mexican creeper flowering in the late summer and bearing racemes of pink flowers which are very useful for table decoration.

It may be propagated by layering in February or by seeds which should be sown in March.

There is a variety with white flowers but this does not always come true from seeds.

A light soil, good drainage, plenty of room and a sunny position will suit this creeper best.

ASPARAGUS.

These plants are very useful for growing in baskets and pots and they thrive in a shady, moist situation. They may be easily raised from seed in the spring or summer, or big plants may be divided. The soil should be rich but they must have good drainage.

A. plumosus.—This beautiful climber is often mistaken for a fern which it somewhat resembles at first sight.

A. plumosus nanus.—A dwarf variety of the preceding and an excellent decorative plant.

A. Sprengeri.—A splendid variety for baskets with growths about three-feet long and leaves much larger than the first two.

ASPIDISTRA.

This genus of ornamental plants deserves to be cultivated because the species are easy to manage and will stand a lot of rough usage. They will succeed in almost any soil and, although they prefer shade, they may be grown in the sun. They may be increased by division in the spring.

A. lurida variegata.—This plant is grown by the thousand for the Covent Garden Market, and always finds a ready sale. It is one of the best plants for growing in a room and its broad, white and green striped leaves make it very effective.

A. elatior.—A species somewhat similar to the former, but the white markings are in blotches instead of stripes. Both are natives of Hongkong.

BIGNONIA.

Several of the species of this genus are climbing plants and many of them have very showy flowers. They may be propagated by cuttings, taken from the previous year's growth, in February. For covering fences, pergolas, &c., they are most useful.

B. venusta.—This is one of the most showy creepers there is in Hongkong, its rich orange-coloured flowers, which are produced between December and February, being admired by everyone. Put the plant in good soil in a sunny position and it will thrive. After it has finished flowering cut it back to the old wood, and it will make new growth on which the flowers will be produced the following season.

B. Chamberlaynii.—The flowers of this plant are larger than those of B. venusta, but they are not produced in such profusion. The colour is creamy-yellow. It should be treated in the same way as the foregoing.

B. Roezliana.—This species has ornamental foliage, and thrives in the shade. It is very useful for covering walls in plant houses, and for rockeries.

BEGONIA.

There are many useful flowering and foliage plants in this genus, some of them species and others hybrids. They are very suitable plants for rockeries in plant houses where they have good drainage, as well as for pot plants. They prefer a light, sandy soil and should be grown, generally, in the shade.

B. rex.—This species is one of the best in the foliage section and a great favourite in Hongkong. It may be propagated by leaves. Select some of the oldest leaves and cut off all the blade except about three inches, and the petiole except an inch. Prepare a well-drained pot or pan, and put in a mixture of half sand and half leafsoil, and insert the petiole of the leaf right up to the blade. Press the soil fimly around

the petiole, water, and place the pot or pan in a shady position out of the rain, and in a few weeks' time a young plant (or more) should make its appearance at the base of the blade where it touches the soil. As soon as it is big enough to handle it may be potted.

B. hydrocotylifolia var. manicata.—A handsome species with showy flowers which are produced in April. It has thick stems, which are prostrate on the ground, and ornamental leaves. It may be propagated by cuttings in the spring.

B. Warscewiczii.—This plant is very similar to the last but the lobes of the leaves are more deeply cut. It also flowers in April.

B. imperialis.—A beautiful, dwarf species with velvety green leaves. It may be propagated by division in the spring.

B. Ingramii.—A hybrid with rather small leaves and coral-like flowers. It is very suitable for baskets. Cuttings of it may be put in in the spring.

B. "President Carnot."—This is a tall growing hybrid and a very ornamental plant. It flowers in the early summer and may be increased by cuttings.

B. semperflorens.—A species that may be easily raised from seed. Sow the seeds in October and the plants will be in flower by May. This plant is very useful for bedding out, as it stands the sun well.

BUDDLEIA.

B. asiatica.—A very sweet-scented shrub when in flower and worth cultivating either in pots or the shrubbery. It prefers a rich soil in the sun. If grown in pots, one plant in an English-shaped ten-inch pot is enough. The long panicles of white flowers open in February. After flowering, prune the plants back to within two or three inches of the previous year's wood. It may be increased by cuttings in February.

BRUNFELSIA.

A South American genus of shrubs with showy, blue, white and yellow flowers. They prefer good soil but will thrive both in the sun and shade. Some of them are easily propagated by cuttings while others are more readily increased by layers.

B. Hopeana.—A shrub which grows to about ten feet in height, with large blue or violet coloured flowers which turn white with age. The flowers are produced in abundance, and the different coloured flowers on the same plant make a very pretty sight. This species is best increased by layering the branches near the ground, in the spring. It flowers in March.

B. calycina.—A much smaller shrub than the foregoing but with larger flowers of the same colour. It flowers in April and May, and can be increased by layers.

B. americana.—A yellow flowered, erect-growing plant which flowers in May and September. It may be increased by cuttings in February.

CALADIUM.

These are very pretty foliage plants and thrive in a light, rich soil in the shade. They are suitable for pots and border. I have found them to succeed in a soil composed of two parts leafsoil, two parts garden soil, one part manure and one part sand. The tubers should be potted in March, just as they begin to grow, and given water gradually until they have produced their leaves, when it may be given copiously. In the autumn when their growth is completed, less water will be required, and when the leaves die down, none at all. They should be then stored in a dry, warm corner until the spring. They may be increased by offsets or division of the tubers.

C. bicolor is a species with leaves having a red centre and green margin.

C. Chantinii has a green ground with red veins and white blotches.

C. Wightii has a green ground with red and white blotches.

CAMELLIA.

There are many varieties of *C. japonica* which are easily grown and one of the most useful is the double-flowered white variety. They do best in rather shady situations when planted in good soil and given good drainage, although very satisfactory results may be obtained when little or no shade is possible. In dry winters it will be necessary to water them. The flower buds often appear two or three together and if size is required they should be disbudded leaving one flower bud to each shoot. The time to replant is in the spring after the plants have finished flowering and before they start to grow.

CINERARIA.

Seeds of Cineraria may be sown the first week in October in a light, sandy soil in the shade. Cover the seed pan or pot with a piece of glass until the seedlings appear. When large enough, prick out in pans and pot them as soon as they are ready. They have proved a success when potted in a mixture of one part Canton mud, one part garden soil, two parts leafsoil and half part sand. They must be kept in a rather shady position, and given plenty of water when growing freely. The flowers open in April. *C. stellata* has become a great favourite, its tall, feathery habit commending itself to most people. The seed is sometimes sown in July, but quite as good results are obtained by waiting until October.

CARNATION.

So far as my experience goes the perpetual flowering Carnations are not a success in Hongkong, as they cannot withstand the heat and rains of summer. *Marguerite Carnations*, however, may be

raised from seed and flowered within five or six months. The best time for sowing is the first week in October. It has been customary in the Botanic Gardens for many years to sow the seeds in four-inch English-shaped pots, putting in about a dozen seeds to each pot. The soil used should be light, in fact, a light soil is suitable for most kinds of seeds, and the following will be found to answer well:—Three parts garden soil, two parts leafsoil, half part sand. As soon as the seedlings are big enough, pot off singly into four-inch pots, in a soil composed of one part garden soil, three parts Canton mud, one part old stable manure and one part leafsoil. For the flowering pots, eight-inch or ten-inch English-shape pots may be used, and they must be well-drained or failure is certain. If three plants are placed in each pot they will form nice specimens by the time they are in flower, which should be in March or April. From the time the seedlings are up they should be kept in a sunny position. It is possible to keep this variety through the summer by placing the plants in verandahs, but the amount of trouble they give far outweighs any advantage that is gained by so doing.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

Very few people grow Chrysanthemums well in Hongkong, but there are two or three notable exceptions. To grow them successfully especial attention must be given to details. Cuttings from strong, healthy plants, selecting those at the base of the flowering shoots, should be put in during January or February. Take them off when they are three or four inches long and enclose the lower end in a small ball of Canton mud moistened for the purpose. Then insert the cuttings in a mixture of equal parts sand and leafsoil and put them in a shady place. Treated in this way nearly everyone will root. As soon as the young plants are rooted, pot them off singly into English four-inch or Chinese six-inch pots. By the end of March they will need to be put into larger pots, and by the beginning of June into the pots they are to flower in. Various

soils are used in their culture but they like a rich one. I have seen good plants grown in equal parts of Canton mud and pighair; also in equal parts of Canton mud, garden soil and old stable manure. They should be grown under a north wall or other shady place during the hottest months of the summer, and in September gradually moved into the sun. Never allow them to get dry and never water them when the sun is on them. In the early morning and evening, when the sun is off, syringe them lightly with clean water. It is a good plan to raise the pots a foot or so from the ground. On the first approach of insects, syringe them with tobacco water, and repeat it if required. In potting off from the cutting pots, pinch out the centre of the shoot and several side shoots will be produced. These will need pinching after the plants are put into larger pots, and once more after they are put into the flowering pots. Liquid manure may be given after the flower buds show, and up to the time that they begin to open.

CROTONS.

These plants may be propagated by cuttings any time during the summer, by taking off the ends of the growing shoots. Their variously-coloured foliage gives a brightness to the garden which few other plants give. Unfortunately our winter is rather too cold for them, and unless planted in very sheltered situations they lose their leaves at that season. They like a fairly rich soil and plenty of sun.

If they are grown in the shade they lose a lot of their beauty. They may be grown in pots in a mixture of two parts garden soil, one part leafsoil and one part manure. There are numerous varieties, all of them more or less beautiful.

CANNA. INDIAN SHOT.

C. indica.—The wonderful strides that have been made in recent years, in the production of new varieties of this plant, show what can be done in the way of increasing the size and colour of flowers

The typical species is a mere weed, and may be frequently met with in the Colony on road sides and rubbish heaps. Some of the varieties are almost as big as large Iris flowers and others are quite as big as Gladiolus flowers. They are eminently suited to our climate as they thrive remarkably well, and may be had in flower nearly the whole year through. For the production of cut flowers they are exceedingly useful. In the garden they will fill up and brighten any empty corner in a very short time. They like a rich soil, and will well repay any attention shown them in this respect. In pots they may be grown quite easily. No garden should be without them. They are easily increased by division of the rhizomes, and the best time to do this is in the early spring, although the operation may be carried out any time during the summer, if it is wished to increase any particular variety. Some of the varieties have dark foliage and are really handsome on this account alone. A few good varieties are Princess Charlotte, Champ d'or, Primrose, Brandywine, Westgrove, Germania, Austria and Italia, several of which were introduced to the Colony by Mr. J. Barton.

CLERODENDRON.

A genus of flowering plants, of which some are climbers and others shrubs. They thrive best in shady situations and are not particular as to soil. They may be increased by cuttings in February.

C. Thomsoniæ.—This is a particularly beautiful plant when in flower in May and June, its white calyx and crimson corolla making it very conspicuous. From its climbing habit it is suitable for covering trellises. Cuttings put in in February and grown on through the summer will make good flowering specimens the following year. If grown in pots its long shoots may be trained around a wire balloon.

C. nutans.—This is an erect-growing shrub with large glossy green leaves, and flowers in October and

November. Its large drooping panicles of nearly white flowers are very effective at that time of the year.

C. squamatum.—A crimson flowered species with large, erect panicles of flowers which open in April. It is a plant of very easy culture and will thrive under big trees, and in other shady spots. It may be propagated by root cuttings.

CROSSANDRA.

C. undulataefolia.—This is a small shrub with orange-coloured flowers and is worth growing as a pot plant, or for filling up a place in a shady border. It likes a light soil and good drainage. It flowers at frequent times from March to September. Cuttings may be put in any time during the summer, and if grown on, will flower in the following year. It must be grown in the shade to ensure success.

CESTRUM.

C. nocturnum.—The "Lady of the Night" as this plant is commonly known, is grown for its powerful perfume which is only emitted at night. To those who like strong scents it is a most desirable plant to grow near one's house, so that its odour may be wafted in through the open windows in the summer months.

The flowers are of a light green colour and rather inconspicuous. It is easily propagated by cuttings in February, and should be grown in a rather dry situation as it dislikes too much water at the roots.

CALLAS.

Richardia æthiopica.—These plants are very suitable for growing in pots and they like a rich soil. If potted in two parts old stable manure, two parts garden soil and one part leafsoil, and given plenty of water during the growing season, they give very little trouble. The flowers, of which the spathe is the

showy part, open from February onwards. Many people call them Arum Lilies, a contradiction of terms, as the Arums belong to one family and the Lilies to another. Callas are included in the Arum family. After the plants have finished flowering and growing, they should be given less water, and when the rains come in May or June, they should be placed in a verandah or similar place, and gradually dried off. Let them remain dry until the beginning of October, then take them out of the pots and re-pot them. As soon as they begin to made new growth give them a rather sunny situation.

DAHLIAS.

Dahlias when grown in pots come in very useful in the winter months. Pot them in a rather rich soil composed of three parts Canton mud, one part garden soil, one part old stable manure and one part leafsoil. The first lot may be put in in July, and others may follow up to September. Give them little water at first, but gradually increase it as they make growth, and then put them in the sun. After growth is completed, gradually withhold water, and when the plants have died down, take up the roots and put them in a dry place until the potting season comes round again.

DOMBEYA.

D. calantha.—A South African shrub of great beauty when in flower; and easily propagated by cuttings in February from the previous season's growth. The flowers are produced freely in the winter mouths in large corymbose clusters like trusses of Geranium, and are light pink in colour. It succeeds in a well-drained sunny position. After flowering, it may be pruned, as it flowers on the young growths.

EUPATORIUM.

E. atrorubens.—This is the only species grown in the Colony I believe, and it is an ornamental plant either in or out of flower. It has large leaves with

dark purple veins, and flowers in March or April. It likes a rather shady situation and will succeed in any good soil. Cuttings may be put in after the plants have finished flowering, and if these are grown on, they will form good specimens for flowering in the following season. They must be kept growing, and specimens in ten-inch English-shaped pots are easily obtained.

FREESIAS.

F. refracta and varieties.—Freesias are favourites with most people on account of their delightful fragrance. They are as useful for cut flowers as they are for pot plants, and they may be easily grown in flower beds. They like a light soil and good drainage. The following compost is recommended for pot plants:—One part Canton mud, two parts leafsoil, one part garden soil, one part old stable manure and one part sand. They may be potted for succession from August to October. Chinese ten-inch pots are admirably suited for growing these plants.

Put in about two dozen corms to each pot, and place them in a shady position until they start to grow. Give water gradually and place them in a more sunny position as their leaves are developed. If they get the morning sun that will be sufficient. After flowering give less water, and discontinue watering after the foliage has died down. They should be then placed under cover in their pots until the potting season returns. Freesias may be easily raised from seed by sowing the seed in October. Sow the seed in pans and when the young seedlings are three or four inches high, pot them off into Chinese ten-inch pots—four or five clumps of seedlings to a pot. The old corms will flower from February onwards, but the seedlings will not come into flower until April, thus a succession may be kept up between these months. For growing in beds the corms may be put in in October, about three inches apart, and if water is given as required, they will succeed with very little trouble. After flowering, the corms should be taken up, and stored in dry soil for the following season.

GERANIUMS.

These familiar plants are by no means so easy to grow in Hongkong as they are in England. It is a very difficult matter sometimes to keep them through the summer months. As soon as the rains come, they should be placed in verandahs or other places out of the rain, otherwise there will be many fatalities. Pot them in a compost of one part garden soil, there parts Canton mud, one part old stable manure and one part leafsoil. Potting operations may commence towards the end of September, and by the end of the month the plants may be put in the open again, in a sunny situation. Cuttings may be put in from October to January, and grown on according to requirements.

GLADIOLUS.

Numerous varieties succeed in Hongkong. One of these is G. Brenchleyensis with crimson flowers, and the others are varieties or hybrids of G. Gandavensis. All thrive admirably in pots and in beds, if grown in a light soil in the full sun. They may be potted or planted in October, and will flower in the following May. G. Brenchleyensis flowers rather earlier than the Gandavensis varieties. Five corms to a Chinese ten-inch pot will be sufficient. Cover the corms with two or three inches of soil as the new corms are formed on the top of the old ones. When the foliage dies down, the corms of Brenchleyensis may be either taken up and stored in a dry place, or left in the ground. The summer rains do not appear to injure them. The corms of Gandavensis, however, will keep better if taken up and stored.

GLOXINIAS.

Anyone with an enclosed verandah or glasshouse should undertake the cultivation of these lovely plants. They may be raised from seed by sowing in October, and by April or May they will be in flower. As the seed is very small, great care must be taken in the operation of sowing. It is not necessary to cover the

seed with soil, but a uniform, humid atmosphere must be maintained. This can be done by placing a piece of glass over the seed pot until germination takes place. The glass will need to be wiped on the under surface about twice a day, as condensation will take place. Gloxinias do not like too much sun, and care should be taken to see that they are never exposed to it during the middle of the day. As soon as the seedlings are big enough to handle, prick them off singly into pans, and pot them on as soon as ready. Three-inch English-shaped pots will be quite big enough for the first potting. Afterwards they may be moved into four-inch and ultimately into six-inch English-shaped pots. Never allow the plants to get dry, and take care never to have them soddened; both conditions will mar success. They will thrive if potted in three parts leafsoil, one part Canton mud and one part garden soil. Gloxinias may be kept through the summer, if water is gradually withheld after they have finished flowering, and if the plants are kept out of the rains. We have found, however, that it is much easier to raise new plants from seed every year then to keep the old ones.

G. maculata.—This is grown as a foliage plant, but it may also be recommended for its blue flowers, which are produced in the autumn. It should be potted in March in a light, sandy soil, and when in full growth given plenty of water. This plant stands the rains quite well and should be grown outside in a shady spot. Its tubers are unlike those of the former as they are long and scaly. When the plant has finished flowering, water should be gradually withheld and the plant allowed to rest until the time comes round for re-potting.

HAEMANTHUS.

H. multiflorus.—A bulbous South African plant bearing scapes of numerous deep red flowers. They should be grown in pots and a compost of equal parts garden soil, Canton mud and leafsoil and one part

each of sand and decayed stable manure will suit them. In potting, the bulbs should be buried just below the soil. They prefer to be under rather than over-potted and repotting annually is not necessary. Potting should take place just before they start to grow which will be after they have finished flowering. Propagation is effected by offsets which are produced more or less from the old bulbs.

HELIOTROPE.

This is an old favourite and is at its best during the winter months. Cuttings may be put in in July, and afterwards up to January, for succession. It is a rather difficult plant to keep through the summer and should be placed out of the rains, although sometimes it will stand in the ground all the summer without any harm. It will succeed in any good light soil, and is particularly useful for growing in pots. Its delightful fragrance is also a recommendation for growing it in borders or beds, where it can be cut freely for vases. It likes the sun, as its name implies, during the winter months.

LILIUMS.

L. longiflorum.—This large white lily is the one most frequently grown for pots, beds and cut flowers. It comes into flower in April and is a general favourite. It succeeds in any fairly rich soil, and when grown in pots it likes a position where it gets the morning sun only. Pot the bulbs in the beginning of September, five bulbs to a ten-inch pot, and keep in a shady place until the bulbs begin to grow. Give water gradually until the plants are well started, when it may be increased. When the plants are growing freely they will take abundance of water. Bulbs may be planted in the ground at the beginning of September, and if they are given a mulching of old stable manure, it will keep the ground cool and afford the plants food later on when they start to grow. After flowering, lessen the amount of water they receive, and as they die down, stop it altogether. If planted in the ground

the bulbs should be taken up every year, and given a change of ground. It is a good plan to grow them in pots and in the ground alternately.

L. speciosum and varieties.—These Japanese Lilies make excellent pot plants, and are fairly easily grown, if attention is given to details. They like the morning sun only, and they do not like manure. They must also be planted as deeply as possible in the pots, as roots are produced from the stems above the bulbs. Four or five bulbs to an English-shaped ten-inch pot will be enough. The bulbs generally arrive from Japan in November, when they should be immediately potted. The following is a good compost:—One part leafsoil, one part Canton mud and one part garden soil. After potting, water sparingly until the young growths are well started, but when the plants are in full vigour give water copiously. They must never be allowed to get dry at the roots, otherwise failure is sure to result. They come into flower from the end of May to July.

MARGUERITES.

Chrysanthemum frutescens has become a general favourite in the Colony as anyone may see from the excellent specimens which are staged at our annual flower shows. Cuttings may be put in in August, and if they are potted on, as soon as they are rooted, specimen plants in twelve and fourteen inch English-shaped pots may be obtained for the following spring. Pinch out the tops of the growths as soon as the plants are rooted, and this will cause them to make side shoots, and keep the plants dwarf and bushy. They like a good, rich soil with good drainage. The old plants can be kept through the summer, and will afford stock for cuttings, but it is not advisable to grow them on a second year as the young plants will do better. They should be grown in the sun to get the best results.

There is now a double flowered variety and if it proves suitable for growing in Hongkong it will be a great acquisition.

MIGNONETTE.

This favourite flower may be raised from seed by sowing in October. Special care will have to be taken to prevent ants from discovering the seed, as they are particulary fond of it. The seed may be either sown in small pots, and when the seedlings are large enough, potted on into the flowering pots, or it may be sown in the latter direct.

The flowering pots used are generally Chinese ten inch, and if the seed is sown in them, the seedlings will have to be thinned out to eight or ten in each pot. Mignonette likes a fairly rich, open soil, and is impatient of stagnant water, although it likes plenty of water when growing freely. Grow the plants in a sunny situation and never allow the plants to get dry at the roots.

If plants are needed for flower beds, the seed may either be sown in the beds, or young plants may be transplanted from small pots. If the latter method is adopted, care must be taken not to injure the young roots, otherwise failure is almost certain to result.

MONCHOSMA.

M. riparium.—A small winter flowering shrub which is very suitable for pot culture and of easy growth. Propagate by cuttings in March from the previous season's growth and grow on into eight inch or ten inch pots. The flowers of a very pale lavender colour, though individually small, are produced in abundance and plants in flower are very effective. The old plants after cuttings have been taken off may be thrown away as the cuttings will make quite good plants for the following season.

NASTURTIUMS.

Seeds of these may be sown in October in pots and beds. Three seeds to a four-inch English-shaped pot will be enough, and when the seedlings are big enough they may be transplanted into the flowering

pots, three seedlings to each. The Chinese ten-inch pots will be found big enough for the dwarf kinds, but a rather larger size may be used for the tall varieties. These plants like a poor soil, and will give a better return in the way of flowers, if they are not treated with manure. They should be grown in the sun as they will not flower freely if grown in the shade.

LINUM

L. trigynum.—This is a very useful plant for flowering in the autumn, and it may be propagated by cuttings in the spring. If the young plants are grown on, they will form specimen pot plants the first season. They like a rich, open soil, although they succeed admirably on old walls where they have become established. They may be grown in well-drained borders, and will brighten the garden with their bright yellow flowers at a rather dull time.

PENTAS.

P. carnea.—Cuttings of this plant should be put in in the spring, and as soon as they are rooted, potted off. As the plants grow pot them on, and by August specimen plants may be obtained. Their small cymes of flesh-coloured flowers are produced in great profusion. After flowering, the old plants may be kept in a warm corner until the following spring, when they may be re-potted. They like a rich, sandy soil.

PLUMBAGO.

The most familiarly known species is *P. capensis*, a shrub with pale blue flowers. It is a lovely thing and blooms more or less all through the summer. Cuttings of the previous year's growth may be put in in February, or the young growths may be taken off in May. They like a sunny position and are useful for growing in pots and shrubberies. Give them a good, rich soil, and if in pots, plenty of water through the summer. Prune them hard in February and they will produce abundance of young growths for the next season's flowering.

P. rosea.—This species has rose-coloured flowers and is not such a strong grower as the former. It is a very suitable plant for growing in pots, and as it flowers at the end of October it is a wonder that it is not more generally grown. It may be propagated from cuttings in April. As it does not like our cold season, it should be kept in as warm a corner as possible during the winter.

RHODODENDRON.

The well known red-flowered Azalea of gardens, *Rhododendron indicum,* is a native of Hongkong and those who wander over the hillsides in March and April must be fully acquainted with its beauty. It succeeds admirably in a wild state when growing in disintegrated granite in the most uninviting situations. If grown in a garden in a sunny position under good conditions it will attain a height of nine or ten feet and as many feet across. In planting care should be taken that the ground is thoroughly drained. The best time to plant is immediately after the flowers have faded, and if the weather is dry at the time, watering should be done until the plants become established. Propagation may be made by layering in the spring.

R. phoeniceum.—A purple-flowered plant which succeeds well in sunshine or partial shade.

R. ledifolium.—This is a white-flowered species which does best in the full sun. The flowers being pure white are useful for many purposes.

R. sinense.—The yellow-flowered Azalea, a native of China and Japan. It is exceedingly pretty in flower and is more or less deciduous.

RUSSELIA JUNCEA.

This is a very pretty and graceful plant both in and out of flower. Its rush-like appearance and pendulous habit render it very suitable for growing in hanging baskets. It may, however, be grown equally well in pots and the ground. The flowers are tubular in shape, about an inch long and of a bright red

colour. The plants flower freely through the summer months if grown in the sun. They are not particular as to soil and may be propagated by cuttings inserted in January or February.

HYDRANGEAS.

These may be propagated by cuttings put in in January. Select the tops of the previous year's growths with a terminal bud and three or four inches of wood. Such cuttings root readily, and if potted off as soon as rooted will flower in April or May. They make nice plants in six-inch pots suitable for table decoration. Pot them on after flowering as soon as they begin to grow, and by the following flowering season, they should be in Chinese ten-inch pots. Old plants may be cut down in January and re-potted, as the flowers will be produced on the young growths. If large plants are required it is not necessary to prune them as numerous young growths will be made from the old wood. They are not particular as to soil or position if the drainage is good. Hydranges do remarkably well at the Peak, much better than they do on the lower levels. On the lower levels, they should be given an eastern position where they get the morning sun only. The blue colour in the flowers is much more predominant in plants grown at the Peak than it is in those grown lower down. Cuttings taken from blue flowered plants at the Peak and grown in the Botantic Gardens always have pink flowers. When these same plants are planted out at the Peak the colour becomes blue again. From this it appears that there must be something in the soil, which causes change of colour. There has been a discussion going on in the Horticultural Press in England on this subject for many years but no definite conclusion has been arrived at so far as I know. It is known, however, that certain substances, such as iron, potash and alum if added to the soil, will cause the flowers to assume a blue colour, but it has not been proved that the flowers will be pink if these substances are not present. The name of the species grown in Hongkong is *Hydrangea Hortensia*.

POINSETTIAS.

These plants are now known under the name of *Euphorbia plucherrima,* but the more familiar name is likely to be retained amongst growers of them. Cuttings of the last year's wood may be made in February, and then grown on for flowering in the following November. If they are given a rich soil, three plants in a twelve-inch English-shaped pot will make a fine display. I have found them succeed best when placed where they get the morning sun. Do not allow them to get dry and feed them well once a week with Clays' Fertilizer. They will well repay good treatment, and bracts nearly two feet across may be obtained in this way. The flowers are rather small, but everyone knows the brilliant coloured bracts which surround them. The growths may be stopped up to the end of July, when they should be allowed to make as many new shoots as possible, as every shoot will flower. The old plants may be cut down after flowering, and re-potted as soon as they begin to make new growth, or planted out in the garden. They are a great acquisition in the winter, as they last such a long time in perfection if kept out of the cold winds. Plants in beds should be cut down yearly after the bracts have faded.

PRIMULA.

Seeds should be sown in July in a light, sandy soil, the seed pan covered with glass and placed in a shady place under cover. Care must be taken not to allow the soil in the seed pan to become dry otherwise failure will be the result. As soon as the seedlings are big enough to handle, pot them off into three-inch pots and place them in a position where they will get plenty of air, but keep them from the direct rays of the sun. Pot on as required but five-inch or six-inch pots will be quite large enough. In potting use a rather light soil such as is recommended for Freesias.

P. sinensis.—This is the species most generally known under the name of Chinese Primula. They flower in the beginning of the year and there are numerous varieties varying in colour from white to dark crimson.

P. obconica.—A species also from China and one which, with care, does remarkably well. Several varieties are now in cultivation and the colours vary from white to dark purple. The leaves of this plant when touched have the same effect on some people that stinging nettles have, but most persons can touch them with impunity.

ROSES.

One often hears that the Roses in Hongkong have no smell, but that is not altogether correct. The reason is, that only certain classes of Roses succeed in this climate, and the Hybrid Perpetuals which are so highly esteemed in England, and justly so for their scent and colour, refuse to become acclimatised. Some of the Teas, however, are quite as good as those grown in Europe. Safrano, the cream-coloured rose, so well known here, is undoubtedly the best we have. Bridesmaid, The Bride, Catherine Mermet and Souvenir d'un Ami also do well in pots, and sometimes when planted out. The white Banksian is easily grown and yields a profusion of bloom in May. The old China Roses, both the dark crimson and pink varieties, do admirably. The best time to prune the Tea and China Roses is in the beginning of October but, so far as my experience goes, only the week shoots and dead pieces need to be removed. The Banksian Rose should be pruned immediately after it has finished flowering, then new growths will be made on which the next seasons's flowers will be produced. After pruning the Tea and China Roses in October they should be given a good dressing of old stable manure, which may be forked in around them, taking care not to injure the roots and keeping the manure from coming in actual contact with them. They will need abundance of water all through the winter months, and, unless there

is rain, this should be given three times a week. Pot-plants may be re-potted in October, and new beds made if required. For pot plants I have found the following compost very satisfactory:—One part Canton mud, one part garden soil, two parts leafsoil, one part old stable manure and half part sand. Cuttings may be made in the autumn, selecting good, strong growths for the purpose. There may be inserted in either, equal parts of sand, leafsoil and garden soil, or in water. During the summer months roses in pots will do better if placed in a position where they are only able to get the morning sun. Plants on their own roots succeed much better than those grafted or budded on other stocks.

VIOLETS.

Through the winter months it is fairly easy to grow Violets, but it is a difficult matter to keep them through the summer. As soon as the hot weather sets in they should be placed in a verandah, or other similar structure, on the north side of the house and sheltered from the heavy rains. In September or October they may be taken out and re-potted, and given a position where they get the morning sun. The following soil suits them:—Two parts leafsoil, two parts garden soil and one part old stable manure. Cuttings may be made in December, and when rooted should be potted off and kept growing as long as possible, so as to have good plants for the following season. If red spider should be troublesome it must be kept down by regular syringing, morning and evening.

WINTER ANNUALS.

A few of these have been mentioned individually where they required special culture, but the majority of them may be grown as follows:—Sow the seeds in the beginning of October, in pans or pots in a shady position and under cover if possible, as sometimes we get heavy rains at this time. As soon as the seedlings are big enough to handle, transplant them singly into

pans or boxes. Such things as sweet Alyssum, Virginian stocks, Candytuft and Antirrhinum may be transplanted in small clumps from the seed pans into flowering pots, or beds, direct. I should have mentioned that as soon as the seedlings are up they ought to be gradually accustomed to the sun. Watering must be carefully attended to, as too much or too little will probably be fatal to the young plants. A suitable compost for pot plants is two parts garden soil, one part leafsoil, one part manure and half part sand. Pay particular attention to drainage, and place the pots in a position where they will get plenty of sun. Annuals planted in beds will need to be watered regularly two or three times a week during dry weather, and for the first day or two after they are planted, they should be shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

To those who grow their own vegetables it is not necessary to point out the advantages they possess over those who do not, and for the purpose of inducing more people to take an interest in this subject, I may be allowed to mention a few of the advantages. In the first place, the vegetables are always fresh, and this being so they are more luscious and better flavoured than those obtained from the market which must of necessity be gathered at least on the previous day. Secondly, the consumer knows exactly under what conditions they are grown, which cannot be said of many of those obtained from the market. In the matter of Salads such as Watercress, Mustard and Cress, Lettuce and Endive, which are eaten raw, too much care cannot be exercised. It is right to point out, however, that some of the vegetables which come into the market are cultivated according to European methods.

RADISHES.

These may be grown from September until April. Well manure the ground, and after the surface has been made fine, sow the seeds broadcast. When this has been done, rake them in until they are covered with soil. Then give them a good watering, and, for the first sowing, put a covering of straw over the bed, as this will aid germination and prevent the water from evaporating too quickly.

Do not allow the seeds to become dry as this will prevent them from germinating. In a few days the young seedlings should appear. Two or three waterings a day may then be given, otherwise the radishes will be "hot" when they are ready for use. To keep up a succession through the winter months, make fresh sowings every week or ten days.

MUSTARD AND CRESS.

Anyone can grow this salad whether he is the possessor of a garden or not. Only a few inches of soil in a box or pot are required. Sow the seeds on top of the soil and give the whole a thorough watering. The seeds do not need to be covered with soil. Cover the seed box with a piece of board, and in twenty-four hours they will be germinating. Take the board off at the end of the second day, and by the end of the third day the Mustard and Cress will be ready for cutting.

LETTUCE.

This thrives best during the winter months, and unless one has a very light soil, it is almost sure to be a failure during the summer, in Hongkong. In Kowloon, however, there are places when it can be grown all the year round. From September to May is the best period for sowing the seeds, sowings being made about once a fortnight according to requirements. Well dig a piece of ground for the seed bed, and dig in a liberal supply of manure. Sow the seeds in the same way as given for Radishes, and when the

seedlings are two or three inches high they may be transplanted. If they are watered once a day it will be sufficient. They may be planted on the sides of Celery beds, in ground which has been previously manured, or along the edges of other beds where crops are growing. Put the seedlings in, about one foot apart, and this will give them ample room for developing. Cos and Cabbage Lettuce may be both grown, but most of the Lettuce which comes to the market is the Cabbage variety. If the Cos variety is grown, it should be tied up, to blanch it, before it comes to maturity.

CELERY.

Seeds of Celery may be sown in the beginning of July for the first crop, and fortnightly afterwards until November for successive supplies. It is best to sow the seeds in pans or pots under cover. In preparing the pans see that they are properly drained. A light soil should be used with half an inch of old manure over the leaves on top of the crocks. The seeds should be sown on the surface of the soil, which may be about two inches deep, and then very thinly covered with fine soil. It is a good plan to place a piece of glass over the seed pans after they have been watered, to preserve a humid atmosphere. The seed may germinate in ten days, but sometimes it takes three weeks. As soon as the seedlings are up, the pans may be placed outside, but care must be taken to protect the young plants from heavy rains. The seedlings will be big enough to prick out in a nurse bed, in about two or three weeks after they are up. This nurse bed may be prepared by well digging a piece of ground and adding about six inches of old stable manure. The seedlings should be put in about four inches apart, and in a month they will be ready for planting in the trenches. The trenches should by about two feet deep. The eighteen inches of soil at the bottom should be taken up, and placed on each side of the trench, and the six inches of soil at the top should be placed in the bottom of the trench. Now get six inches of old stable manure and thoroughly

mix it with the soil left in the trench, and the ground will be ready for planting. The plants should be put in about one foot apart each way. In two months from the time of planting, the Celery will be ready for blanching. Before beginning this operation, however, give the whole bed a thorough watering, as it will not be possible to water the plants afterwards. After watering, pick off all decayed leaves, and side growths if any, then tie the leaves together, and carefully work in the soil, which was placed on the sides of the trench, around the plants, taking care to prevent any of the soil getting into the centre of the plants. Each plant must be treated separately otherwise the result will be unsatisfactory. It is a good plan to earth up the plants about one-third of the way at a time, allowing a week to elapse between the operations. The Celery will be ready for the table about a week after the final earthing up. As the operations of earthing up proceed, the material used for tying up the leaves must be removed, to prevent the plants from getting crooked. Celery likes plenty of water when it is growing freely, and unless it gets it, a very inferior article will be produced. Quite as good Celery, as regards flavour, can be grown in Hongkong as at home, but it does not grow to the same size.

TOMATOES.

The first sowing of Tomatoes may be made about the middle of August. Sow the seeds in pans under cover, and as soon as the seedlings appear place the pans in the open. Pot the young plants off as soon as they are big enough. Chinese six-inch pots may be used for this purpose, putting in two plants to a pot. Place the seedlings close to the side of the pots, as by this method, they are more easily divided when they are ready for planting out. The ground must have been well dug and manured before planting the seedlings. The plants may be put out at two feet apart, and three feet between the rows. Do not allow any side shoots to grow, but pinch them out as soon as they appear. Allow the leader to attain a height of five or six feet, when it should be stopped. If

Tomatoes are grown this way they will give much better results than if several side shoots are allowed to be produced. Unless they are planted in very dry ground, the plants will not need watering after they are put in, except one watering just after planting, which must be given to settle the soil around their roots.

WATERCRESS.

It is not necessary to have a stream of water in order to grow this favourite salad. It succeeds splendidly when planted in ordinary garden soil which has been given a dressing of old stable manure. Old beds may be broken up in August, and the plants divided and used for making new beds. At this time of the year, it is advisable to shade the plants for a month or so, during the hottest part of the day. If, however, there is a shady spot in the garden, the new beds may be made there, and thus save the trouble of shading artificially. Water must be given two or three times a day, but there is no necessity to keep the bed like a swamp. As the cooler weather sets in, new beds may be formed very easily, as cuttings root readily in November and onwards.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKES.

The time to plant these is between February and April, and the tubers will be ready for lifting early in November. Prepare the ground by digging and manuring it, and then put the tubers in, one foot apart, and one and a half feet between the rows. The tubers should only be covered with about an inch of soil. If the weather is dry at the time of planting, keep the tubers watered regularly. The plants will grow four or five feet high, and will flower if allowed to do so. It is best, however, to cut off the flower buds, as this will increase the size of the tubers.

POTATOES.

These should be planted between October and January. Dig a piece of ground and make drills about four inches deep, and one and a half feet between each.

Place the potatoes in the drills at one foot apart, and put in a good quantity of old manure, then cover the whole with soil. Water the ground if necessary. The potatoes will be ready for digging two months from the time of planting. Potatoes obtainable from the market will prove satisfactory for planting purposes. If the tubers are large, they may be cut into several pieces, so long as each piece has an "eye" to it. They must be earthed up as soon as the growths are sufficiently developed for the purpose; and must be kept watered if the weather is dry. Potatoes planted in the middle of October will be quite ready for digging at Christmas.

PARSNIPS.

This is a vegetable not very much grown in Hongkong, but the reason for this is not very clear, as it succeeds admirably. The roots do not grow so large as they do in England, but very fair-sized specimens may be obtained, and their flavour is excellent. They like a deep soil, but a depth of two feet will be sufficient in Hongkong. Prepare the ground by digging or trenching, and add a fair quantity of manure—say a depth of two inches spread over the ground before digging. Sow the seeds in October in drills one foot apart, and one and a half or two inches deep. When the seedlings appear, thin out to about ten or twelve inches apart, and keep the soil well stirred between the rows. This will give them enough room to develop. They will be fit for digging in February. As ants are very fond of the seeds, great care must be taken to prevent the seeds from being eaten by them.

BEETROOT.

The first sowing of this may be made in the beginning of September, but it is as well to leave the main sowing until the first week in October, as a typhoon may sweep the whole away. Prepare the ground as for Parsnips except that no manure should be added, and make the drills one foot apart, and one

inch deep. Sow two or three seeds together, at distances of about nine inches. When the seedlings appear, they must be thinned out to nine inches apart. It is a good plan to cover all vegetable seeds with a thin layer of straw, until the seedlings make their appearance above ground. The soil between the rows must be kept broken up with the Dutch hoe. This will be rather constant work, as the frequent waterings and hot sun, together, soon make the surface of the ground hard. The Turnip-rooted and globe varieties are best for early work and the other varieties for the main crop.

CARROTS.

Carrots like a deep, sandy soil, and in certain places in Hongkong, the roots produced, are as fine and clean as any grown at home. Give the ground a dressing of two inches of manure and dig it in. Make the drills one foot apart, and one inch deep, and sow the seeds thinly all along the drills. Fill in the soil and water the whole bed. When the seedlings appear they will need to be thinned out to three or four inches apart, according to the varieties. Keep the soil loose between the rows by the use of the Dutch hoe. The seeds may be sown from the middle of September until the middle of March. It is best, however, to sow the main crop in October or November. For early use, such varieties as Early Horn and Sutton's Inimitable Forcing will give satisfaction, and for later work, Intermediate and Long Red Surrey.

SALSIFY.

This is a delicious vegetable, and it may be grown quite as easily as many of the other winter vegetables. Prepare the ground and drills as for Parsnips and sow the seeds in October. Thin out the seedlings to four or five inches apart, and keep the surface of the ground broken up. The roots will be ready for the table in February.

PARSLEY.

Sometimes Parsley will withstand the summer but, as a rule, fresh sowings have to be made every autumn. It may be very successfully grown, if ground is prepared for it as for Carrots. Sow the seeds in October in drills one foot apart, and one inch deep. As the young seedlings appear, it will be necessary to thin them out, but these will come in very useful for garnishing, &c.

HERBS.

Marjoram, Basil, Sage and Thyme may be sown in October, on beds prepared for the purpose by digging and manuring. The seeds may be sown broadcast, but the young seedlings must be thinned out, to allow those that remain sufficient room for growth. Fresh sowings will have to be made each year to keep up a supply.

Mint and Peppermint can be grown on from year to year, by re-planting the roots in the winter season. November is a very good time for re-forming beds of these herbs.

FRENCH BEANS.

Sowings of these may be made from October to May, and they give the best results, if they are sown in ground which has been manured for a previous crop. The ground, however, should be dug over before sowing the seeds. They should be sown in drills eighteen inches or two feet apart, and two inches deep. Care must be taken that they are sown on well-drained land, as they do not like a cold, wet soil. There are many dwarf varieties which have been grown with success in Hongkong, such as Canadian Wonder, Ne Plus Ultra, Sion House and Long Podded Negro.

SCARLET RUNNERS.

Although these have been tried on several occasions by different people in Hongkong, I have not heard of anyone succeeding with them. They grow

quite freely and flower well, but do not produce beans. In all probability, there is no insect in the Colony suitable for fertilizing the flowers, or if there is, it does not do so.

PEAS.

Generally speaking, Peas are not such a success in Hongkong as many other vegetables, but fairly good crops can sometimes be obtained. The first sowing may be made about the middle of October, and others for succession up to the middle of February. The round varieties are the best for the early crops, and the wrinkled varieties for the later supplies. Prepare the ground as for French Beans. Sow the seeds in drills three or four inches deep. The distance between the drills will depend upon the varieties to be sown, but a fair guide is to leave a space equal to the height of each particular kind. The tall varieties will need staking when they get a few inches high, but the dwarf varieties will require very little attention in this direction.

CABBAGE.

The first sowing of Cabbage may be made in the beginning of September, in ground that has been previously well dug and manured. Sow the seeds broadcast, and transplant the seedlings as soon as they are four or five inches high, into beds that have been brought into good condition by digging and manuring. The best varieties for the early sowing are Little Pixie and Little Gem. The seedlings of these may be planted fifteen inches apart each way. The larger varieties may be sown in the beginning of October, and up to the end of December for succession, if necessary. Such varieties as All Heart and Enfield Market will require rather more space than Little Pixie, and eighteen to twenty inches may be allowed them.

CAULIFLOWER.

Sow in the same way, and at the same time as Cabbage, for the first crop. The varieties First Crop and Sutton's Giant are suitable for this purpose.

In October, the varieties Universal, Early London, Walcheren and Magnum Bonum may be sown. The seedlings should be planted out at about two feet apart each way. A third sowing in November may be made if required.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

These may be sown in October, and treated in the same way as Cauliflower and Cabbage. The seedlings should be planted out at two feet apart each way. Hard ground, that is ground that has not been recently dug, is recommended at home for this vegetable, but as our ground gets hard so quickly, it is not advisable to follow this advice here.

KOHL RABI.

This is an excellent vegetable, as it comes in season at a very useful time, when there is not much else. Sow the seeds in the same way as Cabbage, and plant out at one foot apart each way. The first sowing may be made in September, and the plants will be ready for use in two months from the time of sowing. A second sowing may be made in October, and a third in November. This vegetable is at its best when not allowed to get too big; when it attains the size of a small coolie orange it should be used.

PRICKLY SPINACH.

As this vegetable is ready for the table six weeks after sowing, it is especially useful. Sow the seeds in October, in ground that has been given a liberal supply of manure, as this crop likes rich soil. The seeds should be sown in drills one foot apart, and one inch deep. The seedlings should be thinned out if they are too close together, so as to give room for development to the remainder. One sowing will give a continuous supply for several months, if care is taken in picking the leaves.

LEEKS.

Sow these in October in drills one foot apart, and one inch deep, in heavily manured ground. About three inches of manure, spread evenly over the surface and then dug in, will not be too much. To obtain leeks of a large size they must be transplanted, but for ordinary purposes they will be quite big enough, if left in the seed bed, and thinned out to about four inches apart. Of course, like nearly all other vegetables grown through the winter months, they will require constant watering in dry weather. They will be ready for use in March.

TURNIPS.

About the middle of October the first sowing may be made, and successive sowings up to the beginning of April. They may be either sown in drills or broadcast, in ground which has been moderately manured. Select a rather dry, well drained piece of the garden for the purpose. The seedlings should be thinned out to about one foot apart each way.

CHINESE SPINACH.

In December the first crop may be sown broadcast, in well manured ground, and successive sowings may be made up to the beginning of October. This is a vegetable that always comes in useful through the summer. It is a practice in some gardens to transplant the seedlings, but I think this is unnecessary. The young plants from the seed bed are more tender than those which are transplanted. If transplanting is preferred, the seedlings may be put in, at distances of one foot apart each way.

OCHROES.

Sow the seeds of this vegetable broadcast, in October, and transplant into nurse beds, as soon as they are about three inches high. Plant them out

when they are about six inches high, into their permanent quarters. They like a rich soil, and, if well treated, will go on producing a crop up to the end of October. The plants should be put out at a distance of two feet between each, and two feet between the rows. Successive sowings may be made, but these are hardly necessary.

BRINJALS.

These may be sown in a seed bed in October, and the seedlings transplanted into their permanent place as soon as they are four or five inches high. Give them a rich soil, and then the supply will extend from May until the end of October. The seedlings should be planted at about two feet apart each way. Thin out the leaves occasionally, so as to let the sun and air into the plants, and give them a top-dressing of manure, if they begin to show signs of exhaustion. Fresh sowings may be made, if desired, up to the beginning of May, but if the first sowing is well treated this is not necessary.

SWEET CORN.

To anyone who has a sheltered garden, and is fond of this vegetable, the supply may be kept up all the year round. It is no use, however, to try to grow it through the winter, unless the garden is well-favoured in this respect. The first sowings, in an ordinary garden, may be made in January, and successive sowings up to the end of September. Sow in rows two feet apart, and one foot between the seeds, in ground which has been liberally manured. A well-drained situation is especially desirable for the first crop, and if one part of the garden is warmer than another, this should be selected. The seedlings will not require transplanting if sown as indicated.

CUCUMBERS.

Sow in pans, in February, for the first crop, and in the same way, for successive supplies, up to the end of July. The plants should be put out at two

feet apart, and four feet between the rows. They like a rich, light soil, and will not succeed, unless the ground is well-drained. Stake the plants as soon as they require it, and give water when necessary.

VEGETABLE MARROWS.

This vegetable grows best through the autumn and winter. Sow the seeds in pans in September, and plant them out as soon as large enough. Give them a rich, well-drained soil, and a sunny position. The seedlings may be planted three or four feet apart, and a similar distance between the rows.

SWORD BEANS.

Although one of the best vegetables for the latter part of the summer, it is very seldom grown, and I have never seen it in the market. Sow the seeds, two in a four-inch pot, in a mixture of equal parts leafsoil and sand, in February. The seedlings will be big enough to plant out by the end of March, and as they are big-growing creepers, they must be given plenty of room. Plant them in a rich, light soil, at twelve feet apart, in as sunny a place as possible. Unless they can be trained up a bank, a bamboo pergola should be erected for them to climb over. The first beans will be ready for gathering at the end of July, and the plants will continue bearing up to November. The flowers are fertilized by a very large humble bee; but soon after the first flowers are opened, they are often attacked by a large, black and yellow beetle. This beetle must be destroyed, otherwise there will be no beans, as it eats through the ovaries of the flowers. The beans are prepared for the table in the same way as French Beans. The Sword Bean is a perennial, but as it is easily raised from seed, it is not worth while keeping the old plants after they have ceased to produce beans.

CHINESE LONG BEANS.

Sowings of these may be made from January to May. Select a piece of well-drained ground, and give it a liberal supply of manure, which must be dug in,

before sowing the seeds. Put in three or four seeds together, at a distance of two feet between the sowings, and four feet between the rows. As soon as the plants begin to twine, put in stakes so that they may twine round them. Stakes five or six feet high will be required for this purpose. When the leaves become too close together they may be thinned out, to give light and air to the plants, and that insects may be able to get at the flowers for the purpose of fertilizing them.

CHINESE SHORT BEANS.

These require similar treatment to the Chinese Long Beans, but should be sown from May to August, to produce supplies in succession to the Long Beans.

WATER SPINACH.

Convolvulus reptans is the botanical name of this plant, and seeds of it may be sown in February. It is not particular as to soil, but a damp piece of ground is preferable. In fact it can be grown in water, just the same as Watercress. If there is not a damp piece of ground in the garden, it does not matter much, the only thing is, the plants will need to be watered more frequently than they otherwise would have done. Prepare the beds by digging in 2 inches of manure, and sow the seeds in drills 1½ feet apart, and 1½ inches deep.

ASPARAGUS.

This plant is not often grown in the Colony, although it can be cultivated without much trouble. The seeds may be sown in October, in drills 1 foot apart, and 1 foot between the seeds. This plant likes a rich soil, so the ground should be given a dressing of 3 inches of manure, previous to the seed sowing. The plants will grow all through the winter and following summer, but will die down in the following winter. In the second February after sowing, the surface soil should be taken off, and a good dressing

of old stable manure placed around the roots, and then the soil put back again. The Asparagus should be ready for cutting in about 3 years from the time seed was sown. It is probably for this reason that it is not more often grown out here.

CHINESE CABBAGE

There are two varieties of this, white, and green. Both of them may be sown from the middle of June up to the middle of November. Well manure a piece of ground for a seed bed, and sow the seeds broadcast. As soon as the plants are big enough to handle, put them out into a piece of ground previously prepared for the purpose, if the weather is favourable. If not, allow the seedlings to remain in the seed bed, and thin out to about 1 foot apart each way. Often at this time of the year, the rains prevent all planting operations for weeks. If the seedlings can be transplanted, plant them in rows 1 foot apart, and 1 foot between the rows.

CHILLIES.

Many people like these for flavouring curries, &c., and a few plants may be grown without much trouble. Sow the seeds in October, and plant out the seedlings when they are four or five inches high. Give the plants three feet each way, then they will form good specimens and produce abundance of Chillies if they are in good soil.

MUSHROOMS.

As regards the cultivation of Mushrooms in Hongkong, it is only in the experimental stage at present. However, as they have been successfully grown from spawn imported from England, the method adopted may be given. Fresh horse droppings were collected every morning for a week and placed in a heap. This heap of manure was turned every morning for about ten days, and then made into a bed. The manure was beaten down as hard as possible, and was then about 1 foot thick. As soon as the

temperature dropped to about 80° F., the bed was spawned, and covered with about two inches of soil, which had been used for growing plants in pots. Before applying this soil for this purpose it had been thoroughly dried in the sun, to get rid of any obnoxious acids which may have been present in it. It was then moistened sufficiently to enable it to be rammed down rather firmly. The bed was then covered with straw, so as to keep as even a temperature as possible, but it was about two months before the Mushrooms made their appearance. The quality of the Mushrooms showed that they could be successfully grown here. This bed was made up and spawned in January. A bed made up and spawned in March, showed good signs of Mushrooms in May, but when the hot weather set in, they all rotted, and consequently did not come to perfection. These beds were made up in an old outhouse. If anyone is contemplating the cultivation of Mushrooms, spawn should be obtained from a well-known nurseryman at home. It is not necessary to have the spawn packed in tin-lined cases, as it will travel quite well in an ordinary wooden box.



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